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THE TEARS OF THE INDIANS

Being an Historical and true Account of the Cruel Massacres and Slaughters of above Twenty Millions of innocent People; Committed by the Spaniards in the Islands of Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, etc. As also, in the Continent of Mexico, Peru, and other Places of the West Indies, To the total destruction of those Countries.

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by

Bartolomeo de las Casas

Translated by John Phillips

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The Tears of the INDIANS:

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An Hiſtorical and true Account

Of the Cruel

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Committed by the Spaniards

In the Iſlands of

Hiſpaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, &c.

As alſo, in the Continent of

Mexico, Peru, & other Places of the

Weſt-Indies,

To the total deſtruction of thoſe Countries.

Written in Spaniſh by *Caſaus*,

an Eye-witneſs of thoſe things;

And made Engliſh by *J. P.*

DEUT. 29. 15.

Therefore thine eye ſhall have no compaſſion; but life for life, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

LONDON,

Printed by *J. C.* for *Nath. Brook*, at the Angel in Cornhil. 1656.

TO
His Highneſs,
OLIVER,
LORD PROTECTOR
of the Commonwealth of
England, Scotland & Ireland,
With the Dominions thereto belonging.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I Have here laid proſtrate before the Throne of Your Juſtice, above Twenty Millions of the

Souls of the ſlaughter'd Indians; whoſe forc'd departure from their Bodies, Cruelty it ſelf compaſsionates. Yet me-thinks I hear a ſudden ſtillneſs among them; the cry of Blood ceaſing at the noiſe of Your great tranſactions, while You arm for their Revenge. By which it is apparent, how well your Highneſs doth obſerve the will of the moſt High, uſing Your vaſt Power and Dignity onely to the advancement of his Glory among the

the Nations: while the Divine Deitie bequeathes You back again immediate Recompences; crowning You, like his holy Warriour, *David*, with the higheſt degree of earthly Fame. Therefore hath he inſpired your Highneſs with a Proweſs like that of *Joſhua*, to lead his Armies forth to Battel; and a Zeal more devoutly fervent than that of *Jehu*, to cut off the Idolater from the earth. Which Divine vertues appear ſo eminent in You,

that there is no man, who oppoſes not himſelf againſt Heaven, but doth extol Your juſt Anger againſt the Bloudy and Popiſh Nation of the Spaniards, whoſe Superſtitions have exceeded thoſe of *Canaan*, and whoſe Abominations have excell'd thoſe of *Ahab*, who ſpilt the Blood of innocent *Naboth*, to obtain his Vineyard.

And now, may it pleaſe your Highneſs, God having given You a full Victory over Your Enemies in this Land,

Land, and a fix'd Eſtabliſh-ment, by the proſperous and total quelling of thoſe pertinacious Spirits; cer-tainly there is no true Eng-liſh-man who doth not lift up his eyes to heaven with Thanks to Almighty God, that You have made the Land ſo happie, as to be the Admiration of other Nati-ons, who have laid themſelvs at Your feet for Alliances, as knowing Your wonderful Succeſſes both by Sea and Land.

Pardon me, Great Sir, if next

next my zeal to Heaven, the loud Cry of ſo many bloudy Maſſacres, far ſurpaſsing the Popiſh Cruelties in *Ireland*, the Honour of my Country, of which You are as tender as of the Apple of Your own eye, hath induced me, out of a conſtant Affection to your Highneſs Service, to publiſh this Relation of the *Spaniſh Cruelties*; whereby all good men may ſee and applaud the Juſtneſs of Your Proceedings: Being confident that God, who hath

hath put this Great Deſigne into Your Hands, will alſo be pleaſed to give it a ſignal Bleſsing; which is the Prayer of

Your HIGHNESS

moſt faithful,

and

moſt obedient

Servant,

J. Phillips.

To all true

Engliſh-men.

NEver had we ſo juſt cauſe to exclaim in the words of the Prophet Jeremiah; O that our heads were waters, and our eyes fountains of tears, that we might weep for the Effuſion

fusion of so much Innocent Blood which provok'd these sad Relations of devout CASAUS, *by reason of the cruel Slaughters and Butcheries of the Jesuitical Spaniards, perpetrated upon so many Millions of poor innocent Heathens, who having onely the light of Nature, not knowing their Saviour Jesus Christ, were sacrificed to the Politick Interest and Avarice of the wicked Spaniards.*

The blood of Ireland, *spilt by the same Faction, in*

in comparison of these Massacres, was but as a Drop to the Ocean. It was the Saying of Christ himself, the Son of Mercy, and Redeemer of the World, That we ought not to cast the Childrens Bread to dogs: But what would he have judg'd of those, that not onely cast the Bread, but the Blood; and not onely the Blood, but the Innocent Blood of men, women and children, to satisfie the contemptible hunger of their Hounds?

The

The intention of these men was Murder; and they kill'd up the poor Indians, not as if they had been their Fellow-Mortals, but like Death it self; and invaded their Land, not like Men, but like the Pestilence, whose destruction is Epidemical.

When our own Case had a small Resemblance of this, how sensible the People were, and how they mourned at the burning of a poor Village; the usual Accidents, or rather, things to be

be expected, in a tedious and necessitated War: but, had you been Eye-witnesses of the transcending Massacres here related; had you been one of those that lately saw a pleasant Country, now swarming with multitudes of People, but immediately all depopulated, and drown'd in a Deluge of Bloud: had you been one of those that saw great Cities of Nations and Countries in this moment flourishing with Inhabitants, but in the next,

totally ruin'd with ſuch a general Deſolation, as left neither Perſon living, nor Houſe remaining: had you ſeen the poor innocent Heathens ſhaming and upbraiding, with the ghaſtlineſs of their Wounds, the deviliſh Cruelties of thoſe that called themſelves Chriſtians: had you ſeen the poor creatures torn from the peace and quiet of their own Habitations, where God had planted them, to labour in a Tormenting Captivity, by many degrees worſe then that

that of Algier, *or the Turkiſh Galleys; your Compaſſion muſt of neceſſity have turn'd into Aſtoniſhment: the tears of Men can hardly ſuffice; theſe are Enormities to make the Angels mourn and bewail the loſs of ſo many departed ſouls, as might have been converted and redeemed to their eternal Manſions.*

We read of old, of the Ten Perſecutions wherein the Primitive Chriſtians were deſtroy'd by the

Cruelties of the Heathen Emperours: but we now read of Christians, the Professors of a Religion grounded upon Love and Charity, massacring, where there was no cause of Antipathy, but their own obstinate Barbarism; as if because their Wickedness had so far transform'd them into Devils, they were resolved to deface the image of God, so innocently conversing among them. The Turks and Scythians shall be now no more the Adagies

gies of Cruelty among us; for here is a Christian Nation which hath taken off that Envie from them, and entayl'd it upon themselves.

And now, O men of England, *let me ask you but this Question; Whether you, that for these many years have had the Honour to be the Patrons of Religion; whose Charity hath still relieved, and whose Power hath still defended the Cause of the Oppressed at home*

and abroad ; whether you can withdraw your Aſſiſtance from this Great Work, and deprive your ſelves of that Birth-right which you ſeem to have among the Nations , God ſtill continuing the Management of his Juſtice in the hands of our moſt Fortunate and Lawful Magiſtrate , whom he hath raiſ'd up , as his Great Inſtrument, to revenge the Blood of that innocent People.

Conſider this , moreover , That you are not

now

uow to fight againſt your Country-men, but againſt your Old and Conſtant Enemies, the SPANIARDS, *a Proud, Deceitful, Cruel, and Treacherous Nation, whoſe chiefeſt Aim hath been the Conqueſt of this Land, and to enſlave the People of this Nation; witneſs thoſe Invaſions in the days of Queen* ELIZABETH; *whoſe Leagues of Amity we had more reaſon to repent of, then to rejoyce at, as being deſtructive to the*

Nation, and made with thoſe that onely ſought the Advantages of Peace, that they might be more ſafe to do us Miſchief: and ſo little they car'd for Peace with us, that they never ſought it, but when meer Exigencies of State requir'd; and never kept their Articles, when they had the leaſt hope of Profit to themſelves: Of which we need not look for ancient Examples; they are freſh in Memory, and have been too ſadly and unde-

undeſervedly ſuſtain'd, both nearer home, and of late years in the West-Indies *alſo, as appears by that Pious and Prudent* DECLARATION *ſet forth by his Highneſs the* LORD PROTECTOR; *as if Providence had ſo ordain'd it, that by the Wrongs of our Countrymen in thoſe Parts, we ſhould be intereſted in the Quarrel of thoſe Innocent Nations.*

Neither need we to fear the Vaunts of the Spaniſh Mo-

Monarch, whose Government stands not on those strong Foundations that some imagine; Blood and Tyrannie being the chief Pillars of his Greatness, or rather, his Arcana Imperii; *& his Empire being onely strong in this, That the Weaknesses thereof have not yet been well look'd into. Should we chase him from his Indian Treasures, he would soon retire to his Shell, like a Snail tapt upon the horns. And perhaps it would not a little avail*

avail to the General Peace of Europe, *whereby we ſhould be ſtrengthened againſt the Common Enemy of Chriſtianitie. For doubtleſs it hath been the Satanical Scope of this Tyrant, To ſet all the European Princes at Variance, and to keep them buſie at home, that they might not have leaſure to bend their Forces againſt his Golden Regions. But he pretends a Right to them, though upon very ſlender Grounds: for that the Eng-*

Engliſh may better claim then himſelf; it being firſt diſcovered, as is well known, and tendered to Henry *the Seventh, by* Sebaſtian Cabot, *one of his own Captains. Which brings to minde the Poor Spirits of our Engliſh Kings, who would not regard ſuch an Advantage, ſo highly importing the Honour of the Nation, ſo far as to be almoſt guilty of the Bloud ſhed in thoſe parts, through their neglect. But for farther ſatisfaction concerning*

the

the Right of the English *to the* West-Indies, *I shall refer you to a further Treatise, which I may ere long put forth.*

And now, honoured Country-men, seeing that by Divine Providence the Cruelties and Barbarous Massacres of the Spaniards have been so apparently presented to you, I cannot but be confident of your Endeavours, as you tender the Good and Welfare of your Native Country, to

acquit

acquit your ſelves in ſo juſt a Cauſe, which God hath put into the Heart and Hands of our Supreme Magiſtrate, who is ſo Vigilant to embrace all Opportunities for the Good of the Nation.

The

Tears of the Indies, *or Inquisition for Bloud: being the Relation of the* Spanish *Massacre there.*

IN the year 1492. the *West-Indies* were discovered, in the following year they were inhabited by the *Spaniards*: a great company of the *Spaniards* going about 49. years agoe. The first place they came to, was *Hispaniola*, being a most fertile Island, and for the bigneſſe of it very famous, it being no leſs then six hundred miles in compaſs. Round about it lie an innumerable company of Islands, ſo throng'd with Inhabitants, that there is not to be found a greater multitude of people in any part of the world. The Continent is distant from this about Two hundred miles, ſtretching it ſelf out in length upon the ſea ſide for above Ten thouſand miles in length. This is already found out, and more is daily discovered.

Theſe Countreys are inhabited by ſuch a number of people, as if God had aſſembled and called together to this place, the greateſt part of Mankinde.

This infinite multitude of people was ſo created by God, as that they were without fraud, without ſubtilty or malice, to their natural Governours moſt faithful and obedient. Toward the *Spaniards* whom they ſerve, patient, meek and peaceful, and who laying all contentious and tumultuous thoughts aſide, live without any hatred or deſire of revenge; the people are moſt delicate and tender, enjoying ſuch a feeble conſtitution of body as does not permit them to endure labour, ſo that the Children of Princes and great perſons here, are not more nice and delicate then the Children of the meaneſt Countrey-man in that place. The Nation is very poor and indigent, poſſeſſing little, and by reaſon that they gape not after temporal goods, neither proud nor ambitious. Their diet is ſuch that the moſt holy Hermite cannot feed more ſparingly in the wilderneſſe. They go naked, only hiding the undecencies of nature, and a poor ſhag mantle about an ell or two long is their greateſt and their warmeſt covering. They lie upon mats, only thoſe who have larger fortunes, lye upon a kinde of net which is tied at the four corners, and ſo faſten'd to the roof, which the *Indians* in their natural

natural language call *Hamecks*. They are of a very apprehensive and docible wit, and capable of all good learning, and very apt to receive our Religion, which when they have but once tasted, they are carryed on with a very ardent and zealous desire to make a further progress in it; so that I have heard divers *Spaniards* confesse that they had nothing else to hinder them from enjoying heaven, but their ignorance of the true God.

To these quiet Lambs, endued with such blessed qualities, came the *Spaniards* like most cruel Tygres, Wolves, and Lions, enrag'd with a sharp and tedious hunger; for these forty years past, minding nothing else but the slaughter of these unfortunate wretches, whom with divers kinds of torments neither seen nor heard of before, they have so cruelly and inhumanely butchered, that of three millions of people which *Hispaniola* it self did contain, there are left remaining alive scarce three hundred persons. And for the Island of *Cuba*, which contains as much ground in length, as from *Valladolid* to *Rome*; it lies wholly desert, untill'd and ruin'd. The Islands of *St. John* and *Jamaica* lie waste and desolate. The *Lucayan* Islands neighbouring toward the North upon *Cuba* and *Hispaniola*, being above Sixty or thereabouts with those Islands that are vulgarly called the Islands of the Gyants, of which that which is least fertile is more fruitful

then the King of *Spains* Garden at *Sevil*, being ſituated in a pure and temperate air, are now totally unpeopled and deſtroyed; the inhabitants thereof amounting to above 500000. ſouls, partly killed, and partly forced away to work in other places: ſo that there going a ſhip to viſit thoſe parts and to glean the remainder of thoſe diſtreſſed wretches, there could be found no more then eleven men. Other Iſlands there were near the Iſland of *St. John* more then thirty in number, which were totally made deſert. All which Iſlands, though they amount to ſuch a number containing in length of ground the ſpace of above Two thouſand miles, lie now altogether ſolitary without any people or Inhabitant.

Now to come to the Continent, we are confident, and dare affirm upon our own knowledge, that there were ten Kingdomes of as large an extent as the Kingdome of *Spain*, joyning to it both *Arragon*, and *Portugal*, containing above a thouſand miles every one of them in compaſs, which the unhumane and abominable villanies of the *Spaniards* have made a wilderneſs of, being now as it were ſtript of all their people, and made bare of all their inhabitants, though it were a place formerly poſſeſſed by vaſt and infinite numbers of men; And we dare confidently aver, that for thoſe Forty years, wherein the *Spaniards* exerciſed their abominable cruelties,

cruelties, and deteſtable tyrannies in thoſe parts, that there have innocently periſh'd above Twelve millions of ſouls, women and children being numbred in this ſad and fatall liſt; moreover I do verily believe that I ſhould ſpeak within compaſs, ſhould I ſay that above Fifty millions were conſumed in this Maſſacre.

As for thoſe that came out of *Spain*, boaſting themſelves to be Chriſtians, they took two ſeveral waies to extirpate this Nation from the face of the Earth, the firſt whereof was a bloudy, unjuſt, and cruel war which they made upon them: a ſecond by cutting off all that ſo much as ſought to recover their liberty, as ſome of the ſtouter ſort did intend. And as for the Women and Children that were left alive, they laid ſo heavy and grievous a yoke of ſervitude upon them that the condition of beaſts was much more tolerable.

Unto theſe two heads all the other ſeveral torments and inhumanities which they uſed to the ruine of theſe poor Nations may be reduced.

That which led the *Spaniards* to theſe unſanctified impieties was the deſire of Gold, to make themſelves ſuddenly rich, for the obtaining of dignities & honours which were no way fit for them. In a word, their covetouſneſs, their ambition, which could not be more in any people under heaven, the

riches of the Countrey, and the patience of the people gave occasion to this their devilliſh barbariſm. For the *Spaniards* ſo contemned them (I now ſpeak what I have ſeen without the leaſt untruth) that they uſed them not like beaſts, for that would have been tolerable, but looked upon them as if they had been but the dung and filth of the earth, and ſo little they regarded the health of their ſouls, that they ſuffered this great multitude to die without the leaſt light of Religion; neither is this leſſe true then what I have ſaid before, and that which thoſe tyrants and hangmen themſelves dare not deny, without ſpeaking a notorious falſhood, that the *Indians* neevr gave them the leaſt cauſe to offer them violence, but received them as Angels ſent from heaven, till their exceſſive cruelties, the torments and ſlaughters of their Countrymen mov'd them to take Armes againſt the *Spaniards.*

Of Hiſpaniola.

IN the Iſland of *Hiſpaniola*, to which the *Spaniards* came firſt, theſe ſlaughters and ruines of mankinde took their beginning. They took away their women and children to ſerve them, though the reward which they gave them was a ſad and fatal one. Their food got with great pain and dropping ſweat, the *Spaniards* ſtill conſumed, not content with what the poor *Indians* gave them gratis out of their own want; One *Spaniard* conſuming in one day as much as would ſuffice three families, every one containing ten perſons. Being thus broken with ſo many evils, afflicted with ſo many torments, and handled ſo ignominiouſly, they began at length to believe that the *Spaniards* were not ſent from Heaven. And therefore ſome of them hid their Children, others their Wives, others their Victuals in obſcure and ſecret places; Others not being able to endure a Nation that converſed among them with ſuch a boyſterous impiety ſought for ſhelter in the moſt abrupt and inacceſſible mountains. For the *Spaniards* while they were among them did not only entertain

them with cruel beating them with their fists, and with their staves, but presumed also to lay violent hands upon the Rulers and Magistrates of their Cities: and they arriv'd at that height of impudence and unheard of boldnesse, that a certain private Captain scrupled not to force the Wife of the most potent King among them. From which time forward they began to think what way they might take to expell the *Spaniards* out of their Countrey. But good God! what sort of Armes had they? such as were as available to offend or defend as bulrushes might be. Which when the *Spaniards* saw, they came with their Horsemen well armed with Sword and Launce, making most cruel havocks and slaughters among them. Overrunning Cities and Villages, where they spared no sex nor age; neither would their cruelty pity Women with childe, whose bellies they would rip up, taking out the Infant to hew it in pieces. They would often lay wagers who should with most dexterity either cleave or cut a man in the middle, or who could at one blow sooneſt cut off his head. The children they would take by the feet and dash their innocent heads against the rocks, and when they were fallen into the water, with a strange and cruel derision they would call upon them to swim. Sometimes they would run both Mother and Infant, being in

in her belly quite through at one thruſt.

They erected certain Gallowſes, that were broad but ſo low, that the tormented creatures might touch the ground with their feet, upon every one of which they would hang thirteen perſons, blaſphemouſly affirming that they did it in honour of our Redeemer and his Apoſtles, and then putting fire under them, they burnt the poor wretches alive. Thoſe whom their pity did think fit to ſpare, they would ſend away with their hands half cut off, and ſo hanging by the skin. Thus upbraiding their flight, *Go carry letters to thoſe who lye hid in the mountains and are fled from us.*

This Death they found out alſo for the Lords and Nobles of the Land; they ſtuck up forked ſticks in the ground, and then laid certain perches upon them, and ſo laying them upon thoſe perches, they put a gentle fire under, cauſing the fire to melt them away by degrees, to their unſpeakable torment.

One time above the reſt I ſaw four of the Nobles laid upon theſe perches, and two or three other of theſe kinde of hurdles furniſhed after the ſame manner; the clamours and cries of which perſons being troubleſome to the Captain, he gave order that they ſhould be hang'd, but the Executioner whoſe name I know, and whoſe parents are not obſcure, hindred their Calamity from ſo quick a concluſion, ſtop-

ſtopping their mouthes, that they ſhould not diſturb the Captain, and ſtill laying on more wood, till being roaſted according to his pleaſure, they yeelded up the ghoſt. Of theſe and other things innumerable I have been an eye-witneſſe; Now becauſe there were ſome that ſhun'd like ſo many rocks the cruelty of a Nation ſo inhumane, ſo void of piety and love to mankinde, and therefore fled from them to the mountains; therefore they hunted them with their Hounds, whom they bred up and taught to pull down and tear the *Indians* like beaſts: by theſe Dogs much humane bloud was ſhed; and becauſe the *Indians* did now and then kill a *Spaniard*, taking him at an advantage, as juſtly they might; therefore the *Spaniards* made a Law among themſelves, that for one *Spaniard* ſo ſlaine, they ſhould kill a hundred *Indians*.

Of the Kingdomes which the Iſland of Hiſpaniola *did contain.*

THE Iſland of *Hiſpaniola* had in it five very great Kingdomes, and five very potent Kings, to whom the other Lords,

Lords, of which there was a very great number were for the most part subject; for there were some few Lords of peculiar Countries that did not acknowledge the jurisdiction of these Kings; one of these Kingdomes is called *Maqua*, which signifies a plain. This Plain if there be any thing in the world worth taking notice, claims a very nice observation. For from the South to the North it is stretcht forward fourscore miles in length; in breadth it takes up sometimes eight, sometimes five, and sometimes ten miles, on all sides it is shut up with very high mountains; it is watered by thirty thousand Rivers and Rivolets, whereof twelve are not lesse then either *Duerus*, *Ebrus*, or *Guadalgevir*: and all the Rivers which run from the Mountains on the West side, whose number is twenty thousand, do all of them abound with gold. With which Mountain the Province of *Cibao* is bounded, where are the Mines of *Cibao*, that afford the most exquisite and pure Gold which is so much valued among us. This Kingdome was govern'd by *Guarionex*, who had under his jurisdiction as his vassals, Lords and Governors so potent, that every one of them was able to bring into the field for the service of *Guarionex*, above Sixteen thousand men apiece. Some of which Lords I very well knew; this King was not meanly

ly vertuous, by nature peaceful, and much devoted to the King of *Caſtile*. This King commanded his ſubjects that they ſhould preſent to the *Spaniards* a bell full of Gold, which when they were not able to do by reaſon that the people had but little skill how to dig out the Gold, he thereupon commanded them to preſent the *Spaniards* with as much as they could fill.

Here a *Cacicus* or Governour offer'd himſelf to the ſervice of the King of *Caſtile*, upon condition, that he would take care that all the Countrey from *Iſabella* to St. *Domingo*, being five hundred miles in length, might be till'd; which promiſes I am very confident he would cheerfully have performed; and then might the King of *Caſtile* have had a revenue of above Three millions of *Caſtilian* Crowns, and there had been ſtill remaining in the Iſland above fifty Cities as large all of them as *Sevill*.

But what was the recompence which they afforded to this milde and bountiful Prince? they ſuffered one of the Spaniſh Captains unworthy of the name of a Chriſtian to vitiate his Wife. He might have raiſed an army and endevoured a revenge, but he rather choſe to leave his Kingdome and his dignity, and to live a baniſhed perſon in the Province of *Coquaios*, where a potent vaſſal and ſubject of his inhabited. But the *Spaniards* hearing of his flight, reſolved not to let

let him lurk any where; but immediately making war upon him that had received them ſo liberally, they never reſted till they had waſted all the Kingdome to finde him out, at length he fell into their hands; and no ſooner had they taken him, but they fettered him immediately, putting him into a ſhip that was bound for *Spain*; but the ſhip was wrackt by the way, many *Spaniards* periſhing, and a great treaſure of Gold being loſt; God ſo taking revenge upon their enormities.

Another Kingdome was called *Marien*, where there is a port at one end of the plain that looks toward the North, being larger and more fertile then the Kingdome of *Portugal*, and which very well deſerves to be better peopled; for it abounds with Mountains wherein are great ſtore of Gold Mines. The name of the King that there ruled was *Guacanagari*, under whom there were many other potent Lords, ſome of whom I knew: To this place came the old ſea Captain that firſt diſcovered *America*, who was received with ſo much courteſie and friendſhip by *Guacanagari*, who gave him and his aſſociates all the help and aſſiſtance that might be (for his ſhip was there ſunk) that upon his return into *Spain* he would often affirm, that his own parents in his own Countrey were never ſo friendly to him. This

King

King flying from the cruelty and enormous murders of the *Spaniards*, being depriv'd of his Kingdome, died poorly in the mountains. The reſt of his Nobles ended their lives in that ſervitude and ſlavery which ſhall be hereafter related.

The third Kingdome was *Maquana*, a Countrey very temperate and fertile, where the beſt Sugar in that Iſland is made. In this Countrey at that time *Canabao* did reign, who for power, dignity, gravity, and the ceremonies which were uſed towards him, far exceeded the reſt. This King ſuſpecting nothing leſſe, was by the craft and ſubtlety of the *Spaniards* taken in his own houſe; whom when they had taken they put a ſhipboard to ſend him to *Caſtile*; but there being ſix ſhips in the Port ready to ſet ſayle, the ſea began to ſwell ſo high, and to be ſo unruly, that all the ſix ſhips with the *Spaniards* in them, together with King *Canabao*, who was laden with chains, all periſhed in the waves. The great God ſhewing the Judgements of his wrath upon theſe unjuſt and wicked wretches as he had done upon the others. This King had three or four brothers ſtout and valiant men, who being offended at the Captivity of their Lord and King, hearing of the devaſtations and rapines daily committed by the *Spaniards* in theſe Countries,

tries, and underſtanding that their brother was dead, reſolved to take armes for the reliefe of their Countrey; but the *Spaniards* meeting them with a certain number of horſe, which are a very great terror to the *Indians* made ſuch a ſlaughter among them, that they depopulated the greateſt part of this Countrey.

The Fourth Kingdome was called *Xaraqua*, being in the centre and middle of the whole Iſland, for eloquence of language, as alſo for good government and gentile cuſtomes, it excels all the reſt, there was in it a great company of Lords and noble men, and for the people themſelves they were the moſt comely in the whole Iſland. The King of this Countrey was called *Behechio*, who had a ſiſter who was called *Anacaona*. Both the Brother and the Siſter were very bountifull to the *Spaniards*, for they had freed them from the dangers of imminent death, ſhewing great kindneſſes to the Kings of *Caſtile*. *Behechio* being dead, the Kingdome was ſolely govern'd by his Siſter. Now it happened one day, that the Governour of the Iſland with ſixty Horſe, and three hundred Foot (though the Horſemen were ſufficient not only to waſt the Iſland, but alſo the whole Continent) cal'd to him about three hundred of the Peers and Lords of the

the Nation, the greateſt part whereof who were the more powerful, having by craft got them together in a ſtraw Cottage, he cauſe to be burnt alive together with the houſe, the reſt with an infinite ſight of people he cauſed to be put to death by the Souldiers, who murdred the poor people like dogs with their Swords and Launces. As for *Anacaona* the Queen, that he might ſeem to be more courteous to her, he cauſed her to hang her ſelf. And if it happened that any who were either moved with compaſſion, or covetouſneſſe, thinking to make lacqueys or ſervants of the Children, had ſet them behinde their horſes, another would come behinde them, and either run them through, or cut off their legs if they hung down upon the horſe ſides. And when certain of the *Indians*, who eſcaped this furious maſſacre fled into an Iſland diſtant from them about ſome eight miles, they were by the Governour condemned to perpetual ſervitude.

The fifth Kingdome was called *Hiquey*, where an ancient Queen, by name *Hiquanama*, governed, who was afterward crucified by the *Spaniards:* and there was an infinite number of thoſe whom I here ſaw partly burnt alive, partly torne to pieces, partly put to other tortures, or redeemed from death, to a worſe miſery and cap-

captivity. Now there is so much to be said concerning the slaughters and devastations made by the *Spaniards*, so many stories to be reckoned up, as would be hardly contained in writing, it being impossible to set down one thing of a hundred: for a conclusion of what I have said before, I will only adde one thing more, affirming upon my conscience, that for all the fore rehearsed enormities and villanies committed by the *Spaniards*, yet the *Indians* gave them no more occasion to perpetrate so many detestable cruelties upon them, then the most religious persons living in the most reformed Monasteries give to the Nations where they dwell, to extirpate them; and they had as little reason to condemn to a perpetual slavery that poor remnant that escaped alive. And this I shall further adde, that I do verily believe, that at that time when the *Spaniards* began this horrid persecution, they had not committed the least crime against the *Spaniards* that could merit any revenge. And this I also dare affirm, that the *Indians* had alwaies just reason to raise warre against the *Spaniards*, and that the *Spaniards* on the contrary, had never any legall cause of quarrel against them, but only alwaies an intention to exercise a fury on them greater then the most consuming and prodigal

digal rage, that ever made the worſt of tyrants infamous.

The wars being now at an end, and the inhabitants all killed up, the women and children being only reſerved, they divided them among themſelves, giving to one thirty, to another forty, to one a hundred, to another two hundred, and thoſe that had moſt, received them on this condition, that they ſhould inſtruct them in the Catholick Faith, though commonly their Maſters were a company of ſtupid, ignorant, and covetous fellowes, and defiled with all manner of vices. But the main care was to ſend the men to work in the Gold Mines, which is an intolerable labour, and to ſend the women to manure and till the ground; an exerciſe fit only for the ſtouteſt men. Theſe they fed with nothing but roots and hearbs, ſo that the milk of women with childe being dried up, by that reaſon the poor little infants died. And the men being ſeparated from the women, there was no more iſſue to be expected from them. The men periſhed in the Gold Mines with hunger and labour, the women periſhed in the fields, being tired out with the ſame calamities: and thus was a vaſt number of the inhabitants of this Iſland wholly extirpated. Beſides all this they cauſed them

to

to carry great burdens of a hundred and fourscore pound, and to travell with it a hundred or two hundred miles. They were also forc'd to carry the *Spaniards* up and down in their Hamechs, using them in manner of beasts to carry their burthens and the necessaries of their journeys. And as for the blows which they gave them with whips, cudgels and their fists, wherewith they continually tormented them in their labour, I could be hardly able to finde either time or paper to make a narration large enough of those things.

Now it is here to be noted that the desolation of these Islands and Provinces happened after the death of Queen *Isabel*, who deceased in the year 1504, for before that time few of the Provinces were intrenched upon by any unjust war, or over-flowed with this deluge of devastation; or if any thing was before that time done, it was conceal'd from the knowledge of the Queen, for she was alwayes zealous and solicitous for the safety and prosperity of this poor people.

And this may be also a generall rule, that the *Spaniards* to what ever part of the *Indies* they did come to, after that time ceased not to exercise their abominable slaughters, tyrannies, and execrable oppressions upon the poor people,

and being delighted with new kindes of torments, daily encreaſed their cruelty and rage.

Of the Iſlands St. John *and* Jamaica.

IN the year 1509. the Iſlands of St. *John* and *Jamaica* that look'd like fruitful gardens, were poſſeſſed by the *Spaniards*, with the ſame bloudy intentions, as the other were; for there they alſo exerciſed their accuſtomed cruelties, killing, burning, roaſting men, and throwing them to the dogs, as alſo by oppreſſing them with ſundry and various torments in the Gold Mines, as if they had come to rid the earth of theſe innocent and harmleſſe creatures, of whom above ſix hundred thouſand were murthered in theſe two Iſlands, ſo laviſh were the Spaniſh ſwords of the bloud of theſe poor ſouls, ſcarce two hundred more remaining; the reſt periſhed without the leaſt knowledge of God.

Of

of the Iſland of Cuba.

IN the year, 1511. they went over into the Iſland of *Cuba*, which extends as far in length as it is from *Valladolid* to *Rome*, in which there were many fair Provinces, inhabited with an infinite number of people, where the humanity and clemency of the *Spaniards* was not only as little as it had been in other places, but their cruelty and rage much greater. In this Iſland many things were done worthy obſervation. A certain Lord of great power among them by name *Hathvey*, who had fled over to *Cuba*, that he might avoid either death or perpetual captivity, hearing by ſome of the *Indians* that the *Spaniards* were alſo come into this Iſland, having aſſembled the *Indians* together, he began as followeth:

Countrymen and Friends, you are not ignorant of the rumour by which we underſtand that the Spaniards *are come among us, neither am I now to tell you how they have uſed the inhabitants of* Hapti (ſo the call *Hiſpaniola*, in the Indian language) *you know it by a ſad experience: nor can we hope to finde*

them more merciful then they did. Then quoth he, *Countreymen do you know the Errand which brings them hither?* To whom they replyed, *that was unknown to them,* yet they further replyed, *that that they were well assured of the cruel nature of the* Spaniard. Then quoth he, *Ile tell ye the cause of their coming. They do worship some covetous and unsatisfied Deity, and to content the greedy worship of that Celestial Power, they require many things from us, using all their endevour to murther and enslave us.* Which having said, taking up a little Chest filled with Gold, he proceeded in these words: *Behold here the God of the* Spaniards: *and therefore if you think fitting, let us daunce and sing before this their God, Perhaps we may thereby appease his rage, and he well then command the* Spaniards *to let us alone*: Who with an unanimous shout cryed out all, *Well said, well said*; and so they went to daunceing round this box, not ceasing till they had sufficiently wearied themselves. Then the Lord *Hathvey* going on with his speech, quoth he, *If we do keep this God till he be taken from us, we shall be surely slain, and therefore I think it expedient for us to cast it into the River*; so his counsell being followed, the Chest was cast into the River.

When the *Spaniards* had landed in this Island, this noble man that had sufficient tryal

tryal of their manner, avoided them as much as he could, ſtill flying from them and defending himſelf by force of armes upon all occaſions. But at length being taken, for no other reaſon, but becauſe he fled from thoſe that ſought his life, and defended himſelf that he might not be tormented to death, he was by the *Spaniards* burnt alive. While he was tyed to the ſtake, there came to him a Monk of the Order of St. *Francis*, who began to talk to him of God and of the Articles of our Faith, telling him, that the ſmall reſpite which the Executioner gave him was ſufficient for him to make ſure his ſalvation if he believed. Upon which words after *Hathvey* had a little while paus'd, he asked the Monk if the door of heaven was open to the *Spaniards*, who anſwering, *Yes, to the good Spaniards*. Then replyed the other, Let me go to Hell that I may not come where they are.

It happened once that the Citizens of a very fair City diſtant about twelve miles from the place where we were, came forth of the City to do us honour, and to ſubmit themſelves to the King of *Caſtile*, but they being returned home, the Governour of the *Spaniards* about the middle of the night as they were ſleeping in their bed, and leaſt ſuſpecting any ſuch thing, ſent a

company who came ſuddenly upon them, and ſet fire upon their houſes, burning up both men, women and children, here ſome they murthered, others whom they ſpared, they tormented to make them tell where they had hid their Gold, after which they made them their ſlaves, having firſt marked them in the body: and immediately as ſoon as the fire was ſpent, they ran to finde out the Gold. At that time the *Spaniards* got above ten hundred thouſand Crowns of Gold, out of which the King ſcarce had three hundred thouſand ſent him; there were ſlain in this place eight hundred thouſand people; and thoſe other Tyrants that came afterwards, emptied the Iſland of thoſe that remained.

Among all the notorious enormities committed by the foreſaid Governour, there is one not to be omitted: a certain noble *Indian* preſenting him, perhaps more for fear then love, a preſent of above nine thouſand Crowns, the *Spaniards* not content with this, tied him to a ſtake, and ſtretching out his Legs, put fire to them, requiring a greater ſum of Gold, who not able to endure the torment ſent home for three thouſand more; notwithſtanding the *Spaniards* with a freſh rage began to torment him again, but ſeeing that he was able to give them no more, they kept him ſo long

over

over the fire till his marrow dropt from the ſoles of his feet, whereof he died. Theſe were the torments wherewith they murthered not only the common People, but the Peers and Lords of thoſe Nations.

Sometimes it would happen, that a Band of *Spaniards* ranging abroad would light upon a mountain where the *Indians* were fled for protection from their cruelty, where they immediately fell upon the *Indians*, killing the Men, and taking the Women and Virgins captive; & when a great company of the *Indians* purſued them with weapons for the recovery of their Wives and Children, they reſolving not to let go their prey, when the *Indians* came near them, immediately with the points of their ſwords ran the poor Women and Children through the bodies. Upon which the wretched *Indians* beating their breſts for grief would now and then burſt forth in theſe words, *O perverſe men, O cruel* Spaniards, *What will ye kill helpleſſe women?*

There was the houſe of a Noble man diſtant from *Panama* above 15. miles; he was by name called *Paris*, and he was very wealthy in Gold; to him the *Spaniards* came, and by him they were entertained like Brothers, he giving to the Captain, as a Preſent, fifteen thouſand Crowns; who by that per-

perceiving that he muſt of neceſſity have a very great treaſure, feigned a departure, but about the middle of the night returning again entred the City, ſet it on fire, ſacrificing the poor people to the flames. Hence they took away about fifty or ſixty thouſand Crowns. The Noble man eſcaping, gathered together what force he could and made after the *Spaniards*, who were gone away with no leſſe then a hundred and forty thouſand Crowns of his own Treaſure; when he had overtaken them, he fell upon them, and having ſlain above fifty of the *Spaniards*, he recovered his Gold again. The reſt ſaved themſelves by flight. But not long after the *Spaniards* returned with greater force upon the Noble man and having routed him, made ſlaves of all his people.

Of the Province of Nicaraqua.

IN the year 1522. the foreſaid Governour went to ſubdue the Province of *Nicaraqua.* There is no man that can ſufficiently expreſſe the fertility of this Iſland, the temperateneſs of the air, or the multitude of the people that did inhabit it. There was a vaſt number of people in this Province, for it contained divers cities above four mile in length: and for plenty of fruits (which was the cauſe that it was ſo extreamly well habited) without compare. This people becauſe their Countrey was all plain and level, had not the ſhelter of the Mountains, neither could they be eaſily perſwaded to leave it, ſo pleaſant was their habitation. And therefore they endured far the greater miſery, and perſecution, and underwent a more unſufferable ſlavery, being the leſſe able to bear it, by how much they were of a milde and gentle nature. This Tyrant vex'd and tormented theſe poor creatures with ſo many continual injuries, ſlaughters, captivities and cruelties, that no tongue is able to expreſſe them. Into this territory he ſent above fifty horſe, who totally extirpated the people of this Pro-

Province by the Sword, ſparing no age nor ſex, not for any wrong they did them, but ſometimes it came not ſo ſpeedily when they called as they expected, or if they brought not ſuch quantities of corn as they impoſed, or if they did not bring a ſufficient quantity of *Indians* to their ſervice: for the Countrey being in a plain there was no avoiding the fury of the Horſemen.

He commanded theſe *Spaniards* to go pillage and depopulate other Countreys, permitting to theſe Robbers, and Hangmen, to bring away and enſlave what number of theſe poor people they pleaſed: whom they laded with chains that weighed above ſixty or fifty pound, that they might not have the opportunity of eſcaping, ſo that it ſeldome hapned that above four in four thouſand returned home; and if either through the weight of their chains, or for hunger or thirſt they did chance to faint by the way, becauſe they would not hinder their journey, they cut off their heads immediately, throwing the head in one place and the body in another. And the poor captive *Indians* when they ſaw the *Spaniards* preparing for ſuch journeys, at their departure would weep and fall into theſe kinde of ſad expreſſions, Theſe are the journeys that we have often gone, to ſerve the

the Christians, and then we could return home again to visit our Wives and Children, but now all hope is cut off from us, and we must never see them more.

It happened also, by reason that it came into the Governors minde to change the *Indians* from one Master to another, pretending to take away force from some that he saw began to envie him, that there was no seed time nor harvest for a whole year; now rather then the *Spaniards* would want, they took it from the *Indians*, by which means there perished no lesse then thirty thousand people; which caused one woman for hunger to eat her own childe.

And because these Cities and other places were such pleasant abodes, therefore the *Spaniards* took up their habitations in these places, dividing the possessions among themselves; and as for the *Indians*, both old and young they lived in the houses of the *Spaniards*, drudging day & night in a perpetual captivity, who spared not the smallest children, but impos'd on them burdens as much as they were able to bear, and sometimes more; & by this means allowing them neither houses nor any thing else proper to themselves, they destroyed them daily, and do daily destroy them: so that they exceeded the cruelties which they had committed in *Hispaniola*.

They

They haſtned alſo the death of many of theſe poor people, by forcing them to carry timber and planks for ſhipping to the port that was diſtant about thirty miles from this place; compelling them alſo to fetch honey and wax from the Mountains, where they were many times devoured by the Tygres. Neither were they aſhamed to lade and burthen Women with childe, as if they had been only beaſts for carriage.

But there was no greater plague that depopulated this Countrey, then a liberty granted by the Governour to the *Spaniards*, for the requiring of ſlaves and captives from the Nobles and potent men of the Kingdome; who as often as the *Spaniards* obtained leave to demand them, which was every four or five moneths, and ſometimes oftner, gave them conſtantly fifty ſervants, whom the *Spaniards* ſtill threatned, that if they would not be obedient, they would either burn them alive, or throw them to the dogs. Now becauſe the *Indians* have but few ſervants, for it is a very great matter to ſee above three ſervants in that place waiting upon a Noble man; therefore the Nobility were fain to come to their ſubjects, from whom firſt they took all the Orphans, then coming to thoſe that had many children, from them

that

that had two they took one, and from thoſe who had three they demanded two; and thus they were fain to make up the Number which the threatning Tyrant required, while the poor people wept and deplor'd the ſad misfortune of their Children, over whom they are very tender. Which being done for a daily continuance, in ten or twelve years they made a clean riddance of the inhabitants out of this place. For every foot there came five or ſix ſhips which returned full of *Indians* into the Regions of *Panama* and *Peru*, where they were ſold, and ended their daies in captivity. For experience hath taught us this, that when ever the *Indians* are removed from their accuſtomed habitations into other climates, they quickly die; the *Spaniards* neither affording them ſufficient food, nor in times of ſickneſſe diminiſhing their labour, for which end they were only bought. And thus the number of people hurried from the enjoyment of their freedome into a ſad and laborious captivity, amounted to five hundred thouſand ſouls, of which above fifty or ſixty thouſand are already periſhed, and more daily periſh. All theſe Maſſacres were committed within the ſpace of fourteen years. There may be now remaining in the Province of *Nicaragua* perhaps ſome four or five

five thouſand men, though they daily diminiſh through the immoderate oppreſſions of the *Spaniards.* Notwithſtanding in former time for number of people, it was the moſt flouriſhing place in the whole world.

Of New Spain.

IN the year 1517. *New Spain* was diſcovered; after the diſcovery of which they did nothing firſt or ſecond, but immediately fell to their old practiſes of cruelty and ſlaughter: for in the following year the *Spaniards* (who call themſelves Chriſtians) went thither to rob and kill; though they gave out that they went to people the Countrey. From that year unto this preſent year 1542. the violence, injuſtice and tyrannies of the *Spaniards* came to their full height; and now quite forgetting their humane natures, they laid aſide all fear of God or of their King. For the ſlaughters, maſſacres, cruelties, devaſtations of Countreys, deſtructions of Cities, violences, tyrannies, and rapines of the *Spaniards*, which they did commit in

theſe

theſe ſo many ſeveral and ſo large Kingdomes, are ſo numberleſſe, and ſtrike the minde with ſuch a horror, that thoſe which we have before related, are nothing in reſpect of theſe which we are to relate, being all perpetrated in the year 1518. and continued to this very moneth in a moſt ſad and dreadfull manner; ſo that what we ſaid before holds very true, that the *Spaniards* ſtill went on from bad to worſe, themſelves ſtriving to exceed themſelves in wickedneſſe.

And thus from the firſt entry of the *Spaniards* into *New Spain*, which happened upon the tenth day of the moneth of *April*, continuing from the eighteenth year untill the thirtieth, in which ſpace of time are contained twelve years compleat, there hath been no end of the bloudy maſſacres and cruel ſlaughters of the *Spaniards*, perpetrated in the continent of *Mexico* and the parts adjoyning, which contained four or five large Kingdomes, that neither for compaſſe nor fertility gave place to *Spain*. All this region was more populous then either *Toledo*, *Sevill*, *Valadolid*, *Auguſta Cæſarea*, or *Faventia*; nay I may affirm that there is not at this preſent, neither was there when thoſe places were at the higheſt of their flouriſhing eſtate, ſo many people as in thoſe parts, which take up the ſpace of

above a thousand and eight hundred miles. In these ten or twelve years, what with Men, Women, Youths, and Children, above four millions were by the *Spaniards* consumed part by fire, part by the sword in these destructive wars; wars more unjust and more condemn'd both by the Law of God and men, then any invasion of the *Turk* against the Catholique Religion. Neither do we now reckon those that died under the intolerable yoke and burdens of their captivity.

There is no language, no art or humane science, that can avail to recite the abominable crimes and bloudy actions committed by these enemies not only of Commonwealths, but of all humane societies: neither can any diligence, or time of writing sufficiently aggravate the circumstances of these detestable deeds. Notwithstanding something I shall say of every one of them; though I do seriously protest, that I connot rehearse one thing of a thousand in respect of all that were done.

of New Spain *in particular.*

AMong other grand murthers of theirs, they committed one more notorious in the City *Cholula*, which did contain above thirty thousand families. All the potent men of that Region, with the Priests who brought along with them their chief Priest also, came to meet the *Spaniards*; and that their reception and entertainment might be the more honourable, they agreed to entertain the *Spaniards* in the houses of the greatest Noble men; but here the *Spaniards* consulted how to begin their massacres, or as they call'd them, chastisements of the people, that they might keep in awe every corner of the Countrey with the terror of their cruelties. For this was their common custome, that they no sooner had set footing in any place, but they committed immediately some notorious violence upon the people, that the rest might stand in the greater fear of them. They sent therefore to the supreme Lord of the City, as also to all the other Lords and Governours, that they should give them a meeting, but they were no sooner come to parley, but they were all imme-

diately laid hold on, leaving none to carry back these bad tidings to the rest; first they demanded of them six thousand *Indians*, to carry the Luggage which they had with them, which when they were brought together they shut up in their houses. It was a sad spectacle to behold this poor people preparing themselves to carry those burthens. They came naked, covering only their secret parts, and at their shoulders hung a little Net wherein they kept their food; and thus while they stooped under their burthens, they lay open to all the cuts and blowes of the Spanish weapons. Now being in this manner gathered together in a great and wide place, part of the *Spaniards* all in armes, stood at the door to keep the rest out, while others with Swords and Launces kill'd the innocent Lambs, so that not one escaped. After three or four daies were expired, some that had hid themselves among the dead bodies all over besmeered with bloud, came with all submission imploring mercy and compassion from them; but they not at all regarding their tears, nor moved with their lamentations, immediately hew'd them to pieces. All the Lords and Noble men, were kept a while in chains, and afterward at the Commandement of the Spanish Captain, tied to stakes and burnt to death.

But

But the King of the whole Countrey escaped, with about thirty or forty men, betaking himself to a Temple which was like a Castle, and in their language called *Quu*; there defending himself a good part of the day; but the *Spaniards* out of whose hand few of them, especially the souldiery escap'd, setting the Temple on fire, burnt them all that were within alive, who as they were dying, brake forth into these lamentations: O wicked men, how have we injured you, that you should thus torment us? Away, away to *Mexico*, where our chief Lord *Montenchuma* will revenge our quarrel. This is also reported that while the *Spaniards* were busily acting this bloudy Tragedy, killing and destroying above six thousand innocent creatures, their chief Captain in sport sung these verses:

One flame the Roman City now destroyes,
And shrieks of people made a dismal noyse,
While *Nero* sung, and moved with delight,
From *Tarpey* Hill beheld the wofull sight.

Another butchery was by them committed in the City of *Tepeaca*, which was a

much larger City then the former. Here they put to the ſword an infinite number of people, with many additions of cruelty.

Departing from *Cholula* they came to *Mexico*, the King whereof *Montenchuma* ſent the Peers and Nobles of this Realm with innumerable preſents to meet them, who all the way teſtified by ſeveral ſports and ſolemnities, the joy which they had for their arrivall; When they approached neer the wal of the City, the Kings Brother came forth with many Noble men to meet him, who brought many gifts of Gold and Silver, to preſent them with. Coming to the entry of the City, there ſtood the King himſelf with all his attendants, who being carried in a golden Litter accompanied them to the Palace which was prepared for them. But that very day, as was told me by ſome that were there, they ſeiſed upon the King, little ſuſpecting any ſuch matter, ſetting a guard upon his perſon of above eighty Souldiers: after that they put him in chains. But here paſſing by many things which might be ſaid; I will relate one thing worthy obſervation. The Governor being call'd away to quell one of his Captains that had taken armes againſt him, and having left *Montenchuma* with a guard of above a hun-

hundred, it came into the minds of the *Spaniards* to do ſomething which might render them dreadful and terrible to the *Indians*; which was a policy, as I ſaid before, they did often uſe. In the mean while all the Nobility and commonalty of the City minded nothing elſe but to exhilarate the minde of their captive King with ſeveral varieties of ſports and recreations. Among which there was none that they uſed more then dancings and revellings, which they performed all night long in the ſtreets. Theſe exerciſes they in their language call'd *Mireies*, but the Iſlanders *Areytos*. To theſe recreations they bring together all their wealth and richeſt garments, and what ever they do eſteem precious; uſing them as the greateſt teſtimonies of gladneſſe. The Nobles alſo and Princes of the Royal bloud every one according to their degree, were buſie in theſe ſports in thoſe places which were neareſt the houſes where the King was detained captive. Not far from the Palace there were above two thouſand youths, being all the children of the Nobility, and indeed the flower of the Nobility which were in *Mantenchuma's* Kingdome. To theſe came the Captain of the *Spaniards* with a ſmall party of Souldiers, ſending other Troops to other parts of the City, as if they only came to be

ſpectators. But the Captain had given command that at a certain hour they ſhould fall upon them; and he himſelf being about to lead the way, cry'd out, *St. Jago*, let us ruſh in upon them. The word being thus given, the Souldiers all fell on, and with their ſwords began to hack and hew thoſe delicate bodies, ſpilling that generous and noble bloud with ſuch an unheard of malice, that they left not one alive. And doing thus to others in other places, there fell a diſmal fear and amazement upon the whole Countrey. Nor will theſe poor creatures doubtleſſe ever forget as long as the world ſtands, to lament and bewail in their ſolemnities the ſad calamity and ruine of the whole ſeminary of their Nobility, of which they were wont ſo much to boaſt.

The *Indians* beholding this unheard of cruelty and injuſtice committed upon ſuch a number of innocent ſouls, having with long patience endured the captivity of their King, who had charg'd them to be quiet, now ran all to their arms, and falling upon the *Spaniards*, wounded many, the reſt narrowly eſcaping: at length the *Spaniards* putting a Dagger to the breſt of the King *Montencuma* threatned to kill him unleſſe he would look through the window and command his ſubjects to lay down

their

their armes. But the *Indians* at that time contemning the commands of their King, choſe them a Captain whom they made chief Commander of all their Forces. By this time the forementioned Governour was returned from ſubduing his enemy, bringing with him a greater number of *Spaniards* then he carryed away with him. Whereupon the *Indians* deſiſted from doing any thing more untill he was entred into the City. But then gathering together very great Forces, they fought ſo vigorouſly, that the *Spaniards* deſpairing of victory reſolved to retreat in a tempeſtuous night and to leave the City. Which being known to the *Indians*, they cut off abundance of them upon the bridges of the Lakes: neitheir can any man deny but that they did it juſtly, for the reaſons above rehearſed. Afterwards the *Spaniards* having recollected more forces, there followed that great contention in the City, wherein they committed ſo many ſeveral butcheries upon the *Indians*, by killing and burning both the Commonalty and the Nobility in a moſt barbarous manner.

Having committed ſo many deteſtable ſlaughters upon the *Indians* in *Mexico*, and other places diſtant ten, fifteen and twenty miles from thence, this tyrannical plague pro-

proceeded to infeſt and depopulate the City of *Panuco*. There was a wonderful frequency of people in that Countrey, neither were the ſlaughters, that were there committed, leſſe remarkable. In the like manner they laid waſte the Provinces of *Tatepeca*, *Ipilcingorium*, and *Columa*, every one of which is of as large a compaſſe as the Kingdomes of *Legima* and *Caſtile*. It is a very hard thing, if not altogether impoſſible, to recite all the murthers and cruelties there committed; beſides that, it would cloy the reader.

Here we muſt obſerve, that they entred into theſe Kingdomes and territories, (which for the abundance of people ought to have been the joy of all true Chriſtians) upon no pretence, but as they ſaid to reduce them to ſlavery. For at their firſt entrance they commanded them to ſwear fealty and obedience to the King of *Spain*, & thoſe that would not come in and ſubmit themſelves to the will of ſuch unjuſt and cruel men, they proclaimed rebels, and and accus'd them of that crime to the King. The blindneſſe of the chief Governours of the *Indies* not permitting them to diſcern, that no man can be called a Rebell who is not before a Subject.

This cruel Tyrant leaning upon this pretence, ſent two other Captains excelling

ling himself in fury, and impiety to *Guatimala* the most fertile and most flourishing Kingdome both for men and fruit of any that were situated fourthward. They had also received commands to visit the Kingdomes of *Naco*, *Honduras*, and *Guaimara* looking toward the north, and being distant from *Mexico* above three hundred miles; the one was sent by land, the other by sea, being both of them well furnished with men and ammunition for Horse and Foot.

And this I dare affirm, that the enormities committed by these two Captains, and by him especially that was sent to *Guatimala* (for the other dyed an evill death in good time) are enough to fill a particular volume, so many were the slaughters, violences, injuries, butcheries, and beastly desolations which they perpetrated, as do not only amaze the present, but must of necessity strike a horror into future ages: for in this place their abominations and devastations were more fatal then in any place before.

As for him that went by sea, he vex'd all the shore with his incursions and cruelties, to whom there came certain out of the Kingdome of *Yucatan*, which lies in the way to the Kingdomes of *Naco*, and *Nayamura*, whither he was then marching, and brought

brought him many presents, yet he was no sooner come into the Countrey, but he sent the souldiers to depopulate and waste the same, who ceased not to commit many abominable outrages. Among the rest, a certain seditious rebel entring into a region bordering upon *Guatemala*, burnt up their City, killing the Inhabitants, and laying waste all the Countrey, which he did on purpose, that if he should be pursued by his enemies, they might be liable to the revenge of the *Indians* as they passed along; which happened accordingly, for there the chief Commander from whose power the foresaid Captain had rebell'd, was slain; but he was succeeded by many other fell tyrants, who with their wonted cruelties and captivity destroyed the people, selling them to those that brought garments and other provision, and by that kinde of servitude, which they practised from the year 1524. to the year 1535. they depopulated and made desert the provinces of *Naco* and *Honduras*, which seemed to be the Elysium and Paradise of the world in every respect. And I have lately seen them so destroyed, that it would move the most stony heart to compassion. In these eleven years there perished in this Countrey above two millions, scarce two thousand now remaining,

maining, who daily diminish through the hardnesse of their servitude.

But as for that abominable tyrant that exceeded all that were before in tyranny, and is equall to all that remains behinde, let us now finde him out in *Guatimala*.

He going through the Provinces adjoyning to *Mexico* toward *Guatimala*, which are above four hundred miles in length, minded nothing else all the way he went, but slaughters, rapines, burnings, depopulations, compelling all upon the foresaid pretence to submit themselves to their cruelties, in the name of the King of *Spain*, whom they had never seen nor heard of, and whom they could not but think more unjust and cruel then his Ministers and Officers, yet giving them no time to deliberate, they wasted all before them with fire and sword.

of the Kingdome and Province of Guatimala.

AT their first entrance into this Kingdome they committed a very great outrage. But for all that their chief Lord and Governor carried in a Litter came forth to meet him with Drums and Trumpets, and great joy; attended by many of the Nobles of the City of *Utlacan* the greatest Mart Town of that Kingdome, where they gave him provisions in abundance, with all that he could desire. That night the *Spaniards* lodg'd without the City, not thinking themselves safe in a Town so well fortified as that was. The next day he called to him the chief Lord with a great number of the Nobles, demanding of them a very great quantity of Gold. They returning him answer, that they could not satisfie his request by reason that their Countrey afforded not Gold, were immediately by his command, without any cause or form of proceeding, all burnt alive. The rest of the Nobles of these Provinces, seeing that all the chiefest of them, who had the power and government of the Kingdome in their hands, were

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for no cauſe put to death, but becauſe they were not able to give them gold, fled to the mountains for ſafety, charging their ſubjects to ſubmit themſelves to the *Spaniards*, but not to tell them where their ſculking places were, nor to give them notice of their flight. Whereupon an infinite number of the *Indians* came to the *Spaniards* requeſting that they might be their ſubjects, and that they might ſerve them. The Captain made anſwer, that he would not receive them, and that moreover he would kill them all unleſſe they would declare whither their Lords were fled: the *Indians* replyed, *That they knew nothing of it, but their Wives and Children they ſaid were ready to ſerve them*, adding, that they were at home in their houſes, whither they might goe, and either kill them or uſe them as they pleas'd; which offers they made to them again and again. But ſtrange to tell, the *Spaniards* demanded their Cities and Towns, killing theſe poor creatures, who as they thought were ſecure at their work. They came to a very large Town, which being confident of their own innocence, thought themſelves ſafer then the reſt; but in two hours ſpace they brought ſuch a deſolation upon it, killing all ages and ſexes, that there was not a perſon left alive, but what ſaved themſelves

ſelves by flight. The *Indians* perceiving that with all their humility, their patience, and their preſents, that they were not able to aſſwage the fury of theſe inhumane creatures, and that they were daily killed up like dogs, began to think of taking armes; for they thought it better, ſince an evill death could not be avoided, rather to die fighting and taking revenge upon their enemies, then to be killed like beaſts by them. But when they ſaw their want of armes, their feebleneſſe, their nakedneſſe, and that they were utterly unskilfull in the management of horſes, that they might have ſome way of prevailing upon their enemies, it came in their minds to dig certain ditches in the waies, that ſo the horſes as they went along might fall into them: at the bottome of theſe pits they had driven in ſtakes ſharpned at the top, and they had covered them over with clods of earth that they might not be diſcovered; twice or thrice the *Spaniards* fell into theſe ditches, but afterwards by their care they eaſily avoided them. And therefore they made a Law among themſelves, that all the *Indians* which they took, of what ever ſex or degree, ſhould be thrown into thoſe pits which they had made: Into theſe pits they threw women big with childe, and all the aged perſons that they could

could light upon, till the pit was full. It was a ſad ſight to behold women with child goar'd through the body with theſe ſtakes; while others that lay uppermoſt were killed with ſwords and launces; thoſe that would not in were caſt to their dogs. They burnt a very potent Peer of the Nation in a great fire, ſaying that he was much honoured with that kinde of death.

Among other abominations committed by this Captain and his followers, who were not at all more gentle then their leader, this was one more memorable then the reſt. Into the Province of *Cuzcatan*, where the City of our Saviour is ſituated, being a Countrey, which together with the neighbouring ſea coaſt is extended about forty or fifty miles in length; and alſo into the City of *Cuzcatan* it ſelf, which is the Metropolis of the whole Countrey, he was received with very great joy, the *Indians* expecting his coming, laden with a preſent of above thirty thouſand Turkies and other things neceſſary for their refreſhment. But he having received their gift, commanded the *Spaniards* every one of them to take as many *Indians* as they pleaſed, and to keep them for ſervice as long as they ſhould ſtay there. Whereupon every one took a hundred leſſe or more, according as his occaſions required. And as for the poor

Captives they ſerved them with ſo much zeal and affection, that they could require nothing more then adoration it ſelf. After this the Captain required of the people a great quantity of Gold, who returned him anſwer, that they would give him all the Gold they had. Whereupon the *Indians* brought together a great company of ſpears which were guilt with Orichalcum, ſo that they ſeemed to be gold; but the Captain cauſing them to be touched, and not finding them to be gold, ſpake thus to the people, *All curſes light upon ſuch a Region as this, wherein there is no Gold*; and then commanded all thoſe that had taken ſervants, to keep them in chains, and to mark them with the mark of ſervitude, which was immediately done, the Kings mark being burnt into their fleſh; which I ſaw alſo done to the ſon of the chiefeſt man in all the City. Thoſe *Indians* that eſcaped with the reſt of the inhabitants of the Countrey, gathered themſelves together, reſolving to hazard a war with the *Spaniards*, but alas with ſmall proſperity, there being an infinite number of them ſlain. After this they returned to *Guatimala*, where they built a City, which God in his juſtice deſtroy'd, overwhelming it, firſt with earth, then with ſtones of a vaſt bigneſſe, and laſtly, letting in upon it

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a great deluge of waters. Now after that they had slain all that were able to make resistance against them, they carried away the rest into captivity, or forced them to give away their children as tribute due to the *Spaniards*, for they use the service of no other creatures. And thus part being sold into the Countreys of *Peru*, and part destroyed by the sword, they made a wilderness of one of the most happy and populous Countreys of those parts, stretching out in length and bredth above a hundred miles. This the tyrant himself confessed, writing that this County was more populous then the County of *Mexico*, as indeed it was. This man in the space of fifteen years, which was from the year 525. to 540. together with his associates, massacred no lesse then five millions of men, and do daily destroy those that are yet remaining. It was the custome of this Tyrant, when he made war upon any Town or Countrey, to carry along with him as many as he could of the subdued *Indians*, compelling them to make war upon their Countreymen, and when he had ten or twenty thousand men in his service, because he could not give them provision, he permitted them to eat the flesh of those *Indians* that they had taken in war: for which cause he had a kind of shambles in his

Army for the ordering and dreſſing of mans fleſh, ſuffering Children to be killed and broyled in his preſence. The men they killed only for their hands and feet, for thoſe they accounted dainties. Which being underſtood by the neighbours, they were all ſtruck with aſtoniſhment.

Moreover he deſtroyed not a few by compelling them to carry ſhips from one ſhore to another, cauſing them to bear great veſſels, together with their Anchors of an extraordinary weight from the North ſea to the South, being diſtant one from the other a hundred and thirty miles. And thus, alſo they carryed their Artillery from one place to another, putting them upon their naked ſhoulders, whereby being oppreſſed with the monſtrous weight of thoſe burdens, they ſunk down often of them in the way, of which I was many times an eye-witneſſe. He divided and ſeparated families, taking women from their husbands, daughters from their parents, which he gave to the Sea-men and Souldiers. All his ſhips he filled with *Indians*, where they died for hunger and for thirſt. And truly if I ſhould relate all his particular cruelties, I ſhould make a book only to ſcare and affright men. He had two great Navies, wherein like lightning from heaven he conſumed theſe poor wretches.

wretches. Oh how many children did he deprive of their parents, how many men of their wives, how many wives did he make widowes, how many widowes did they vitiate, how many marryed women adulterate, how many virgins did they raviſh, how many did they enſlave, how many did he cauſe to lanpuiſh in calamity, how many tears, how many ſighs did he provoke, upon how many did he bring deſolation in his worldly pilgrimage, and endanger their damnation in the world to come? and this not only to the *Indians* that ſuffered, but to the *Spaniards* whom he encouraged in wickedneſſe, and who aſſiſted him in the committing ſo many hainous and abominable murders. I do beſeech God that he would be merciful to him, and let his wrath be ſatisfied with that judgement which he hath already inflicted on him.

of New Spain. *As alſo of* Panucon, *and* Xaliſco.

THeſe horrid murders and maſſacres being committed, beſides others that I have omitted, in the Provinces of *New Spain*, there came another cruel and furious Tyrant into the Provinces of *Panucon*, who having perpetrated many hainous iniquities, and ſent great numbers of the Natives to be ſold in the Countreys of *Spain*, laid waſte all this Kingdome: and once it hapned that they uſed eight hundred of the *Indians* in ſtead of a team to draw their carriages, as if they had been meer beaſts and irrational creatures. He was afterwards made Preſident of the City of *Mexico*, and with him many other his fellow tyrants advanced to the office of Auditors; which Offices they contaminated with ſo many impieties and abominations, that it is hardly to be imagined. And as for this Countrey it ſelf, they ſo far deſtroyed it, that if ſome of the Franciſcan Friers had not ſtrenuouſly oppoſed him, and that the Kings Councel had not provided a ſudden remedy for it, in two years ſpace they had wholly depopulated

New

New Spain, as they had done in *Hiſpaniola*. One of the Aſſociates of the Preſident that he might encloſe his Garden with a wall, uſed the ſervice of eight thouſand *Indians*, and becauſe he afforded them neither food, nor wages, they all periſhed after a moſt ſad and lamentable manner.

After the firſt Captain, of whom we ſpake before, had put an end to the deſtruction of *Panucon*; and that there came newes to him that the Kings Councell was coming into theſe parts, he went further into the Countrey, that he might exerciſe his cruelties with more liberty, and cauſed fifteen or twenty thouſand of the *Indians* to follow and carry the burthens of the *Spaniards*, of whom ſcarce two hundred returned alive, the reſt being all deſtroyed; at length they came to the Province of *Machuaca* which is diſtant above forty miles from *Mexico*, and is nothing at all inferior to the other either for plenty of proviſion, or number of people; the king coming to meet him with all ſhewes of reſpect and honour, they put in priſon becauſe he was reported to be very rich: which that they might get from him, they thus tormented him; having put his feet in a kinde of ſtocks, and ſtretching out his body, they tyed his hands to a ſtake, and then put-

ting fire to his feet, while a boy was set to baste them with oyle, that they might roast the better; there stood another also with dogs behind him, threatning to set them upon him; which if he had done, they would have soon put an end to his life: and with these torments they vexed him, to make him bring his treasures to light. At length there came a Franciscan Frier who freed him from his torments, but not from death, which immediately ensued. With this kinde of torture they put to death many other of the Princes and Noble men of the Countrey.

About this time a certain man who came to visit their purses rather then their souls, knowing the *Indians* to be adorers of Idols, for the *Spaniards* had not taught them better, kept them captive till they had delivered all their Images, for they thought that they had been all of Gold, but when they found themselves deceived, he inflicted upon them punishments as if they had committed some great offence, and because he would not utterly lose their hopes, caused them to redeem their Idols with Gold, to adore them; and thus did the *Spaniards* procure the worship of God among the *Indians*.

This Tyrant out of the Province of *Panucon*, went to *Methuaca* and *Xalisco*, which were

were Countreys fruitful both in men and money, and no small glory of the *Indian* Nation, having Cities that were in length above seven miles. When he came into these Countreys, the *Indians*, as they were wont, met him with accustomed signes of joy and gladnesse; but he immediately brake forth into his wonted cruelties, to attain his usual scope, which was the heaping up of Gold, the only God which they adore. The Cities they burnt to the ground; Their Princes, having first tormented them, they carried away captive, binding them in chains. Women with childe, without any consideration of their weaknesse, they oppressed with tedious labours and hunger, that they dy'd by the way. And as for their Children, because they could not carry them, they were forc'd to throw them away, by which a number of Infants were destroyed.

There being a certain Christian who went about to defile a virgin, her mother interposed her self, and would have taken the daughter from him; the *Spaniard* drawing forth his dagger, cut off her hand, and afterwards slew the virgin, because she would not give consent to his lustful desire.

Among other things also this was most unjust, that they caused to be marked with the mark of slavery above four thousand five

five hundred of the Indians that were all as free born as themſelves; among which they alſo cauſed to be thus marked children of two, three or four years old, though they were all ſuch as came forth to meet him with great acclamations of joy; other things without number I paſſe by in ſilence.

All theſe above mentioned abominations being done, they reduced the reſt to a tyrannicall ſubjection, for which cauſe they thought that they were only ſent thither. In which regions the ſaid Governour gave liberty to all the *Spaniards*, eſpecially to his Stewards and Officers, to exerciſe what tortures they pleaſed upon the *Indians* to draw out of them the knowledge where their treaſure lay. His Steward in times of peace kill'd many *Indians*, burning ſome, and caſting other to his dogs, cutting off others hands, legs, and heads, that thereby their minds being totally ſubjected they ſhould never deny where their Gold or treaſure lay hid. All theſe things were done, the Tyrant himſelf beholding and conſenting; and not only ſo, but they oppreſſed them and continually abuſed them with ſtripes and blowes of their canes and fiſts, leaving no cruelty unexerciſed toward them. In this Kingdome of *Xaliſco* they conſumed by fire ſix thouſand villages, upon which

which the *Indians* growing deſperate, ſeeing the remainder of thoſe that eſcaped daily deſtroyed; they made an inſurrection againſt the *Spaniards*, and killing ſome of them, as they well deſerved, they betook themſelves again to the Mountains. But the cruelties and injuries of the Tyrants that went from theſe parts to depopulate (which they called diſcover) other Regions overtaking them; many *Indians* were by them ſlain, while they ſought to defend themſelves in the rocks: and to this preſent there are a thouſand Butcheries committed upon them; whereby there are hardly left any people in the whole Countrey. And thus the *Spaniards* being blinded and forſaken by God, and given over to a reprobate ſenſe, conſidered not how unagreeable both to the Law of God and nature were their proceedings againſt the *Indians*, how unjuſtly they went about to deſtroy them by force of armes, and not only to caſt them out of their Countrey, but to torture them and cut them in pieces: nor do they ſee how impious their violences and tyrannies are over theſe poor people; they do believe and do affirme both in deed and word, that thoſe victories which they have obtained and uſed to the

the deſtruction of the *Indians*, as if their unjuſt wars were of right, and are ſo impudent as to give God thanks for them: like thoſe theeves of whom *Zachary* ſpeaks in the eleventh Chapter, the third and fourth Verſes. Feed the flock of the ſlaughter, whoſe poſſeſſors ſlay them and hold themſelves not guilty, and they that ſell them ſay, Bleſſed be the Lord, for I am rich.

Of

Of the Kingdome of Yucatan.

IN the year 1526. a vile and impious man through his fawning and lying, was made Governour of the Kingdome of *Yucatan*; which was the manner that other tyrants uſed for the obtaining of their preferments and offices; for by their authority they had greater opportunities to do miſchief. This Kingdome did abound with people both becauſe of the temper of the air, and for the plenty of proviſion, in which it excelled the Countrey of *Mexico*. But thoſe things for which it is chiefly famous are Hony and Wax, which it afforded to all the Countreys of *India*, which have been hitherto diſcovered. It is three hundred miles in compaſſe. This Nation either as to policy and good government, or as to their way of living and converſation, excelled all the reſt; and well deſerved to have had more knowledge of the true God. There there might have been erected by the *Spaniards* many brave and large Cities where they might have liv'd as in a Paradiſe, had they not rendred themſelves totally unworthy of any ſuch benefits through their own enormities and im-

impieties. This Tyrant with three hundred men made war upon theſe innocent *Indians* living peaceably in their houſes, and offering injury to none, deſtroying many people. And becauſe the Countrey hath no Gold, for if it had they had ſoon ended the lives of the inhabitants, by digging in the Mines, making a gain of thoſe bodies and ſouls for which Chriſt died, therefore thoſe that they left alive, they made ſlaves of, ſending whole ſhips away fraighted with people, bartering them for Wine, Oyle, Vinegar, Pork, Horſes, and other things which they ſtood in need of. Out of fifty or a hundred Virgins which he had choſen out, he exchanged the beſt of them for the ſmalleſt veſſell of Wine, Oyle, Vinegar or Pork: and once it chanced that a youth who was the Son of a Prince, was exchanged for a Cheeſe, and a hundred perſons for a horſe. This was his imployment, from the year 26. to 33. till newes was brought of the Regions of *Peru*, whither the *Spaniards* going put an end to their villanies here for a ſmall time. But after ſome daies were paſt over, they returned again to their former rapines and diſhonouring of God by their wicked courſes; neither have they yet made an end, ſo that now three hundred miles of Land lie untill'd and void of inhabitants. The particulars

ticulars of their cruelty are not to be remembred, only two or three that come into my minde I will relate.

While the *Spaniards* were hunting after the *Indians* with their dogs, they met with an *Indian* Women, who being ſick and ſeeing that ſhe was not able to eſcape them, taking a rope hang'd her ſelf, hanging alſo her childe of a year old about her waſte by the feet; but the dogs immediately fell upon the childe, only he was baptized by a religious perſon before he died.

When the *Spaniards* departed out of the Kingdome invited the ſon of a certain Noble man, Governor either of a City or great Province, that he would go along with him, who anſwering that he was unwilling to leave his native Countrey, they threatned to cut off his ears unleſſe he would go along with him; notwithſtanding all which, he perſevered in his reſolution; whereupon they cut off his noſe and the upper part of his lip, with as little remorſe as if they had been paring their nailes.

This Furcifur carried himſelf obſcenly toward a deſerving religious perſon, boaſting to him, that he had got as many *Indians* as he could with childe, that they might yeeld the more profit in the ſale of them

them. In this Kingdome, or elſe in ſome province of new *Spain*, it hapned that a *Spaniard* being a hunting, his dogs ſeemed to him to be a hungry, whereupon he took a little Infant out of the mothers armes, and cutting off the thighs and armes of the Childe, caſt it to his dogs, and when they had devoured thoſe, he caſt the whole body to them. Thus we ſee how they were delivered over to a reprobate ſenſe; and what a value they put upon theſe creatures formed after the Image of God. But now worſe things follow.

Many cruelties, and indeed innumerable which were never before heard of, I doe omit, only I ſhall adde this one. Theſe ambitious, blinde and execrable tyrants going out of this Region to ſeek more riches, there went with them four Monks of the Order of St. *Francis* together with Father *James*, to keep the Countrey in peace, and to bring the remainder of thoſe that were left by their preaching to the knowledge of Chriſt. I do beleeve that theſe were they that in the year thirty four were ſolicited by the *Indians* to come into their Countrey, and to preach to them the knowledge of the true God. To which purpoſe they gathered aſſemblies and congregations together, that they might know what ſort of people theſe were

were that call'd themselves *Fathers*, and Fryers, who differed so much from the rest of the *Spaniards*, that vex'd them with so much affliction and torment. At length they receiv'd them, but on condition that they would come alone and not let any other of the *Spaniards* enter in among them, which those religious persons promis'd, for they had not only a liberty, but a command from the Governour of *New Spain*, that they should so promise them, and that the *Spaniards* should do them no harm or injury. Upon which they began to preach the Gospel among them, and to declare to them the holy intention of the King of *Spain*, of which things they had not yet received any knowledge, nor that they had any other King then him who oppressed them with so much tyranny. The religious persons had not been there above forty daies, when they began to bring in all their Idols, and to commit them to the fire; and afterwards they brought their children, whom they loved as dearly as the apples of their eyes, to the religious persons to be instructed. And thus being perswaded by these religious persons they did more then ever had been done in the *Indies* before (for what ever the Tyrants that had oppressed them were wont to tell them they only spoke in con-

tempt and derision on the *Indians*) for above twelve or fifteen Kings of large Provinces, together with their subjects by their Councell and consent, all of them acknowledged the King of *Castile* to be their superiour Lord of their own accord, and received him for their Emperour, as he was King of *Spain*. In test mony whereof I have a writing in my own custody signed by those persons.

Thus not without the great joy of those devout persons, an entry was made, for the bringing of those inhabitants that were remaining in these Countreys to the knowledge of Christ; but in the mean while by another way there entred in among them about eighteen *Spanish* Horsemen and twelve footmen, bringing with them great loads of Idols, which they had brought out of other Countreys. The Captain of the foresaid *Spaniards* called to him one of the Noble men of this Countrey, and commanded him to take these Idols and to distribute them among his people, and bring in exchange an *Indian* man or woman for every Idol, otherwise threatning to make war upon him; the foresaid Lord out of fear took those Idols, giving every one of them to his subjects, commanding them to worship them, and also to send back in recompence to the *Spaniards* some of their people to serve

serve them. The *Indians* terrifi'd delivered their children after a certain proportion, those that had two giving one, and those that had three delivering two; and thus they ended this sacrilegious merchandize, and so the Cacique gave satisfaction to the *Spaniards*; I dare not call them Christians. One of these sacrilegious Robbers, *John Garcia* by name, being very sick and like to die had under his bed two burthens of these Idols, who when the Indian woman that looked to him was with him, commanded her that she should not deliver those Idols at a small rate, because they were of the best sort, and therefore that she should not sell them, but for an *Indian* man or woman in exchange, and as he was making this kinde of will he expired. And who can now question but that his soul is now tormented in the flames of Hell! Consider by this what was the progresse of Religion; and what examples of Christianity the *Spaniards* did shew, when they came into *America*, how they honour'd God themselves, or how much they car'd that the *Indians* should know the right worship of him; Judge which is the greater crime, that of *Jeroboam* who made *Israel* to sin, causing two golden Calves to be set up, and to be worshipt by the people, or of

the *Spaniards*, who caused the *Indians* to buy their Idols, and made merchandize of them. These are the deeds of the *Spaniards*, who most often, out of a desire of heaping up gold, did sell and do yet sell, did deny and do yet deny Christ their Redeemer.

The *Indians* seeing that the Promises of the religious persons, that the *Spaniards* should not enter into their Countrey, were not performed, and that the *Spaniards* brought Idols out of other places to sell them into their Countrey, whereas the religious persons had made them to burn all theirs, that there might be but one worship of one God, came and spoke to them in this manner. Why have you told us so many untruths, promising so faithfully to us that the *Spaniards* should not come into our Countrey? Why have you burnt our gods, when as they do bring and sell others among us? are the gods of other Countreys better then our own? The Friers, although they had little to say, yet they made a shift to pacifie their mindes, and immediately went to the *Spaniards* declaring to them the evill which they had done, humbly beseeching them to depart. Which the *Spaniards* not only utterly denyed, but also, which was

was more wicked and abominable: they perſwaded the *Indians* that they were called by the Friers: which being believ'd, they took councell to kill the religious perſons, who being admoniſhed by certain other *Indians*, avoided that danger and fled. But after their departure, knowing the falſhood and treachery of the *Spaniards*, they ſent meſſengers fifty miles after them, craving pardon in the name of the *Indians*, and intreating them to return.

The religious perſons, as upright ſervants of God and zealous for the ſouls of thoſe poor people, gave credit to the meſſengers and returned, and were entertained as if they had been Angels ſent from heaven, and remained with the *Indians* for five moneths, receiving a thouſand courteſies from them. But when the *Spaniards* would not depart from thence, although the Viceroy uſed all his endevours to recall them; he declared them Traytors and guilty of high Treaſon; and moreover, when the perſevered in their tyranny and oppreſſion, the religious perſons ſeeing, that though revenge came late, that yet they would not go unpuniſhed, and fearing left that revenge might fall upon their own heads, and beſides not being able to

preach the Gospell in quiet, by reason of the incursions of the *Spaniards*, resolv'd to leave the Kingdome, which now remains destitute of all knowledge, the souls of these poor *Indians* remaining in their past miseries of ignorance and Heathenisme, all the streams of divine knowledge being taken from them, by these cursed *Spaniards*, as when water is taken from the young plants; for at the time when they went away, the *Indians* were very covetous after the knowledge of our Religion.

Of

Of the Province of Sancta Martha.

THE Province of St. *Martha* by reaſon of the Golden Mines & the fertility of the place wa a brave Iſland; wherefore from the year 1528. to 1542. many tyrants went thither by ſea, with their incurſions waſting and ſpoyling all the Iſland, after a ſtrange manner deſtroying the inhabitants, and robbing them of all their Gold. And ſo the whole Countrey was waſted by them, eſpecially all the coaſt and the places adjoyning, untill the year 1523. And becauſe it was a fruitfull Countrey, there went thither at ſeverall times ſeverall Captains, ſucceeding one another in cruelty, ſo that every one ſtriv'd to outvie his predeceſſor in the inventions of exquiſite torments to afflict the poor people. And thus alſo in this place they confirm'd our foreſaid Axiome. In the year 1529. there went thither a very great tyrant accompanied with many Troops, with an intention to exceed all the reſt of his predeceſſors in cruelty, who took away abundance of treaſure from the people in the ſpace of ſeven years; in which exile he dying without repentance, into his place

other tyrants succeeded, where with their bloudy hands and impious points of their swords they destroy'd all the rest that their predecessors had spared. And such a desolation they brought upon many provinces by their accustomed waies of cruelty, and inflicted so many torments upon the Princes and people to force them to declare where their treasure lay, that from the year 1529. to this day they depopulated above four hundred mile of land, the number of people in these parts slain being not inferior to those who had been slain in other places.

If I had decreed to reckon up the impieties, slaughters, cruelties, violences, rapines, murders, and iniquities, and other crimes committed by the *Spaniards* against God, the King, and these innocent Nations, I should make two large a volume: yet I shall do my endevour, if God grant me life. For the present I will rehearse a part of those things which the Bishops of these Provinces wrote to the King our Soveraign Lord. These were letters dated the 25. of *May*, in the year, 1541. In which these words are written. "I tell your sacred "Majesty, that there is no remedy to ease "this afflicted Nation, but to deliver it out "of the power of these step-fathers, and to "give it into the power of a loving hus-

"band,

"band, which may uſe it with more gen-
"tleneſſe as befits it, and that as ſoon as
"may be; for if there be any delay, it muſt
"of neceſſity periſh. And a little after he
proceeds thus. "By which it ſhall be ap-
"parent to your Majeſty, how deſervedly
"the Governors of theſe Provinces ought
"to be deprived of their dignity, that the
"Provinces may be eaſed; which if it be not
"ſuddenly done, theſe provinces will ne-
"ver be eaſed. This alſo your Majeſty
"may further take notice of, that they are
"not men that live here but Devils, that
"there are no ſervants of God or the King
"to be found, but traytors both to the
"Law and King. Now certainly there is
nothing more deſtructive to the peace of
the Nation, and that hinders more the con-
verſion of thoſe that live there in peace,
then the cruel and hard uſage which the
Spaniards afflict thoſe innocent people with-
all, which bred in them ſuch a loathing
of the *Spaniſh* name, that nothing is more
odious and deteſtable. For the *Indians* call
them *Yaes*, which in their language ſignifies
Devils. And truly not without reaſon,
for the actions of theſe people have been
more like the actions of Devils, whereby
it happens that the *Indians* ſeing ſuch
crimes committed by the *Spaniards* both of
high and inferiour conditions, to void of
pity

pity and compassion, cannot chuse but think amisse both of God, the King, and *Law* of the Christians; and to labour to perswade them to the contrary, is a vain and fruitlesse labour, and whereby a greater advantage is given them to laugh at Christ and his Law. And as for the *Indians* that take armes to defend themselves they think it better to die once, then to fall into the hands of their enemies, and to be afflicted with many deaths. These things, most invincible *Cæsar*, I have learnt by experience. He addes further, Your Majesty hath in these Countreys more friends and servants then you are aware of; for there is no souldier of all those that serve in these parts, who does not publickly and openly professe, whether he rob, steal, kill or burn the subjects of your Majesty, for the obtaining of gold, but that he does it to do your Majesty service. Wherefore most invincible *Cæsar* it would be requisite, that you should signifie by the severe correction of some, how displeased you were with such services, whereby they shew themselves so disobedient and refractory to God himself. Which words are taken from the writings of the said Bishop of St. *Martha*, out of which it is manifest, what strange things have been committed, and are daily committed by them. They call

call the *Indians* Warlike, that continually flie to the Mountains to avoid the cruelty of the *Spaniards*, and they call those the *Indians* and Inhabitants of the Countrey, whom they have subjected to the hardship of a perpetual slavery by the terror of their massacres: by which they have been depopulated and wasted, as appears out of the letters of the foresaid Bishop, who recites but a very few of those things that were committed. The *Indians* of these Regions us'd to break forth into these expressions, when they are forc'd naked through the craggie passages of the mountains, if at any time they chanced to faint with weariness (for then they are constantly beaten with canes, sometimes their teeth knockt out with the hilts of their swords, to make them rise and proceed on in their journeys without any rest) then were they wont I say to break forth into these expressions, Oh how envious art thou! I faint, kill me, and put an end to my daies: this they sigh forth, scarcly able to draw out their words, the certain signs of an inward anguish and deep distresse; but who can comprehend in words the hundredth part of these calamities and afflictions wherewith the *Spaniards* do torment the poor *Indians*; God of his mercy bring them to the knowledge of those who are able to remedy and prevent them for the future. *Of*

Of the Province of Carthagena.

THis Province is distant from the Island of St. *Martha* toward the West 50. miles, and is situated upon the confines of the Kingdome of *Cerusia*, being stretched upon the sea coast to the Bay of *Uraba* a hundred miles in length, Southward it is also stretched to a very great length. These Provinces from the year 1498. to this present year were handled after a most cruel manner, and depopulated with several kindes of slaughters, as it happened in the Islands of St. *Martha*: but that I may come to a quick conclusion I shall cease to speak of every particular, that I may make hast to the rehearsal of those detestable crimes which they committed in other Countreys.

Of the ſhore of Pearls, of Paria, *and of the Iſland of the* Trinity.

FRom the ſhore of *Paria*, to the Bay of *Venecuela*, which takes up above two hundred miles in length, the *Spaniards* committed moſt wonderful depopulations; for they gave themſelves wholly to their wonted Robberies, enſlaving alſo infinite numbers of men, on purpoſe to ſell them for money, againſt all the faith and pledges which they had given them for their ſecurity (for thoſe were things which they never obſerved) though they were entertained by theſe innocent creatures with all civility, and foſtered in their houſes like their parents, or children, ſerving them in all things to the utmoſt of their power, and making them maſters of all that was in their poſſeſſion. It can hardly be ſaid or expreſſed, with how many injuries and unjuſt actions they uſed to afflict the poor *Indians* in theſe Countreys from 1510. untill this preſent year. Two or three of their moſt hainous crimes I will rehearſe, whereby the reader may judge of the wickedneſs of thoſe which remain untold.

Into the Iſland of the *Trinity* being larger and

and more fertile then *Sicily*, and ſtored with Inhabitants, according to their quality, more ingenuous & vertuous then any other Nation of the *Indians*, a certain Robber went in the year 1510. accompanyed with fifty or ſixty other fellow theeves, who preſently proclaim'd an edict that all the *Indians* ſhould come into the Iſland to live with him. The *Indians* received them as their natural Countreymen, both Princes and ſubjects yeelding obedience to them with much chearfulneſſe, bringing proviſion to them every day as much as would have ſufficed to have ſerved a far greater number; for this is the cuſtome of the Inhabitants of this new world, to afford all neceſſaries to the *Spaniards* in great abundance. A little while after the *Spaniards* built a great houſe for the *Indians* to dwel in, for they would not that all of them ſhould have more then one houſe, where they might all dwell together, that they might with more convenience execute that which they had in their reſolutions; which they did accordingly: for when they had thatched it over, and raiſed it to the height of two men, they ſhut up abundance of them in the ſaid houſe upon pretence to haſten the work; but in truth, that thoſe within might not be ſeen by thoſe without; then a part of them compaſs'd the houſe

houſe with their weapons that none might enter in or go forth; after that others of them went in, and unſheathing their ſwords, they threatned death to the naked *Indians* if they ſtir'd, and then bound them. And if any of them went about to flye, they were in the place immediately cut in pieces; ſome few that eſcaped, part wounded, and part whole, joyning themſelves with thoſe who ſtood without, being about two hundred in number, with bowes and arrowes retreated to another houſe, who being all at one end ſtoutly defending the entry of the houſe, the *Spaniards* ſet fire to the other end, and ſo they all there periſhed by fire. Hence they departed with their priſoners, all they could lay hold on, being about a hundred and eighty, to the Iſland of St. *John* where the ſold half, and from thence alſo to the Iſland of *Hiſpaniola*, where they ſold the reſt. Now when I taxed the Captain for his wickedneſſe, after he came to the Iſland of St. *John*? He gave me this anſwer, Pray ſir be patient, for I was commanded by thoſe that ſent me, that thoſe that I could not take by fair means, I ſhould ſeize by force: yet the ſaid Captain had related to me for certain, that in the Iſland of the *Trinity* he found them both fathers and mothers to him, which he ſpoke to his greater confuſion

fuſion and the aggravation of his crime. Infinite of other things they did, taking captive theſe poor people againſt all faith given. Let theſe actions be well conſidered, and whether the *Indians* ſo taken may be juſtly enſlaved or no. Once the Fryers of the Order of St. *Dominick* conſulted about ſending ſome of their Order to this Iſland, to ſpread the light of the Goſpel among the *Indians*, for the ſalvation of their ſouls; Whereupon they ſent a Licentiate, famous for his ſanctity with a lay man, to accompany him, to viſit the Countrey, converſe with the Inhabitants, and to ſeek out fit places for the the building of Monaſteries. The religious perſons being arriv'd were received as Angels from heaven, ear being giv'n to their words with all attention, alacrity and affection, that they were able at that time, for they were ignorant of our language; it happened afterwards when the religious perſons were gone, that there came a band of Souldiers, who according to their wonted cuſtomes of fraud and impiety, carried away captive the Prince of the Province, who (either becauſe that name was given him by the Religious perſons, or by the other *Spaniards*) was call'd *Alfonſus*; for they delight to be called by the names of the Chriſtians, and therefore before they are informed of any thing

thing else they desire to be baptized. By these souldiers was *Alfonsus* craftily seduced a shipboard under pretence that they would give him a Banquet; with their Prince there went seventeen other persons, for they had a confidence that the Fryers would keep the *Spaniards* from doing them any injury, for otherwise the said King would not have trusted them so far; but they were no sooner on shipboard, but the *Spaniards* hoysed up their sailes for *Hispaniola*, where they sold all the *Indians* for slaves; Now all the Region being troubled for the losse of their King and Queen, flockt to the Religious persons, and had like to have slain them; who perceiving the injustice of the *Spaniards* were very much troubled; and I do beleeve, that they had rather have lost their lives, then that the *Indians* should have suffered such an injury to the hinderance of their salvation; but the *Indians* were satisfied with the promises of the religious persons, who told them, that as soon as any ships came to the Island, they would take the first opportunity to go to *Hispaniola* and endevour to get their King and Queen set at liberty. Providence sent a ship thither to confirm the condemnation of those that govern'd, by which these religious persons sent to the religious persons of *Hispaniola*, but got no redress, for the *Spaniards* there

were receivers of the prey. When the religious persons, who had promised to the *Indians* that their King should return within four moneths, saw that he did not come in eight moneths, they prepared themselves for death, and to give up their lives to Christ to whom they had offer'd them before their departure out of *Hispaniola*; and so the innocent *Indians* reveng'd themselves upon the innocent Friers. For the *Indians*, believed that the religious persons were guilty of the said treachery, partly because that their promises concerning the return of their King in four moneths had prov'd so vain, partly because the *Indians* make no distinction between the religious persons and the theeving *Spaniards*. It hapned also that at another time, through the great tyranny and oppression of the evil Christians, that the *Indians* slew two religious persons of the order of St. *Dominic*, of which I was a very real witnesse, as being one of those who escaped the same fate by a great miracle, which I had resolved not to have mentioned, lest the horror of the fact should deter others. Wherefore to avoid prolixity, I shall say no more concerning these things, leaving them to be revealed at the day of judgement, when God shall pour his vengeance down upon these robbers and destroyers of mankinde. In these Provinces in the

the Bay of *Coderat*, there was a City, the Lord of which was called *Higueroto*, a name common either to the persons, or to the officers of the place. He was a person so milde and gentle, and all his subjects endued with such vertue, using the *Spaniards* that arriv'd there with that civility, that they thought nothing too much for them, bestowing all things needfull either for sustenance or delight that their Countrey afforded. This Lord had saved many from death, who had escaped out of other Provinces, from the murthers and slaughters of the *Spaniards*, being a kind of a sanctuary for the sick and half famished persons that came into his Countrey, and when they were recovered sent them back again to the Island of pearls where the *Spaniards* liv'd, though he had an opportunity to have slain them, there being none to regard or misse them; in brief, the *Spaniards* had all the houses of the inhabitants in common, and all the subjects of *Higueroto* they called their own subjects; but a perfidious *Spaniard* took councel how he might destroy this Region which seem'd it self so safe and secure; presently therefore he sayl'd thither, and invited a great number of men to come a shipboard, who giving credit to the *Spaniards*, came willingly to them; but they were no sooner entred the ship, but the *Spaniards* hoysed sayl for the Island

of St. *John* where they ſold them all. At the ſame time I arriv'd at this Iſland, where I ſaw this tyrant, and was told the relation of what he had done. He wholly deſtroyed the City it ſelf, which the other *Spaniards* who were wont to harrace all the ſea coaſt, were notwithſtanding much troubled at, abominating actions ſo hainous committed againſt them who had been ſo courteous and liberal to them, and where they had been entertain'd as in their own houſes.

I will not recite the infinite wickedneſſes which have been committed by them, and are daily committed among them.

Theſe *Spaniards* departed from the ſea coaſt to the Iſlands of *Hiſpaniola* and St. *John*, carrying with them above two millions of men to the ſaid Iſlands, which they afterwards deſtroyed through hard labour and continual bad uſage; thoſe that before liv'd in this Iſland, being not reckned into their number, who were an infinite and unſpeakable number, and it is a moſt ſad thing to conſider, and that which would move the moſt cruel hearts, to ſee all this fertile ſhore lie deſert and depopulated. This is alſo a known thing, that they never do tranſport *Indians* from theſe places, but in their voyage they do pay the third part of them as a tribute to the waves, beſides

ſides thoſe that are murthered in their own houſes. The cauſe of all theſe things are their own wicked purpoſes; that is to ſay, by the ſale of the Indians to heap up treaſure, yet furniſhing the ſhips not with half proviſions for the ſuſtenance of thoſe that they tranſport, becauſe they would not be at too much charges; and ſometimes there are hardly proviſions enough to ſuffice the *Spaniards* themſelves, ſo that the *Indians* ready to die for hunger and thirſt, are immediately thrown into the ſea. And it was related to me for certain, that a ſhip going from *Hiſpaniola* to the Iſland of *Lucayos*, ſayl'd thither without any compaſſe, only by the Carkaſſes that floated up and down the ſea. Afterwards when they are landed, where they are carried to be ſold, there is no man that would not be mov'd with compaſſion, to ſee both old and young, men and women, naked and hungry, drop and faint as they goe along. Afterwards they divide them like ſheep, ſeparating ſons from fathers, wives from their husbands; and then making up a company of ten or twenty, thoſe that ſet out the ſhips, and fitted them with neceſſaries, preſently caſt lots for their ſhares. And when the lot fell upon a company that had an old or a ſick man, he to whom the lot fell, was wont to break forth into theſe ex-

preſſions, *Curſed be this old fellow, why do you give him me? to bury him? why do you give me this ſick man? to be his keeper?* And thus let us conſider, in what eſtimation the *Indians* are among the *Spaniards*, and how the precept of Charity on which the Law and the Prophets depends is obſerved among them.

There is nothing more deteſtable or more cruel, then the tyranny which the *Spaniards* uſe toward the *Indians* for the getting of pearl. Surely the infernall torments cannot much exceed the anguiſh that they indure, by reaſon of that way of cruelty; for they put them under water ſome four or five ells deep, where they are forced without any liberty of reſpiration, to gather up the ſhels wherein the Pearls are; ſometimes they come up again with nets full of ſhels to take breath, but if they ſtay any while to reſt themſelves, immediately comes a hangman row'd in a little boat, who as ſoon as he hath well beaten them, drags them again to their labour. Their food is nothing but fiſh, and the very ſame that contains the Pearl, with a ſmall portion of that bread which that Countrey affords; in the firſt whereof there is little nouriſhment; and as for the latter, it is made with great difficulty, beſides that they have not enough of that neither for ſuſtenance; they lye upon the ground in fetters,

ters, leſt they ſhould run away; and many times they are drown'd in this labour, and are never ſeen again till they ſwim upon the top of the waves: oftentimes they alſo are devoured by certain ſea monſters, that are frequent in thoſe ſeas. Conſider whether this hard uſage of the poor creatures be conſiſtent with the precepts which God commands concerning charity to our neighbour, by thoſe that caſt them ſo undeſervedly into the dangers of a cruel death, cauſing them to periſh without any remorſe or pity, or allowing them the benefit of the Sacraments, or the knowledge of Religion; it being impoſſible for them to live any time under the water; and this death is ſo much the more painful, by reaſon that by the coarctation of the breſt, while the lungs ſtrive to do their office, the vitall parts are ſo afflicted that they dye vomiting the bloud out of their mouthes. Their hair alſo, which is by nature black, is hereby chang'd and made of the ſame colour with that of the ſea Wolves; their bodies are alſo ſo beſprinkled with the froth of the ſea, that they appear rather like monſters then men. By this intolerable labour, or rather diabolical exerciſe, they have conſumed all the *Lucayans*, for their particular gain; out of every *Indians* labour gaining above fifty or a hundred Crowns.

Crowns. They ſold them alſo againſt all juſtice; only becauſe *Lucayans* were moſt skilfull ſwimmers. There periſhed alſo many of the Inhabitants of other Provinces in this place.

Of the River of Yuya Pari.

THrough this Province runs the River of *Yuya Pari* which riſes in other Countreys about two huudred miles diſtant. Into this River entred a perfidious Tyrant, waſting many miles of Land, committing many ſlaughters, conſuming many by fire, and putting an infinite number of theſe poor *Indians* to the ſword, that liv'd peaceably in their own houſes without any ſuſpicion of making diſturbance. At length he dy'd an evill death, and all his forces came to ruine, though he were ſucceeded by many others, not inferiour to him in impiety, who daily deſtroy the ſouls of the poor *Indians*, for whom the bloud of Chriſt was ſpilt.

Of

Of the Kingdome of Venecuela.

IN the yeare 1526. our Soveraigne Lord the King through the falſe perſwaſions of ſome evil Counſellours made over to certaine Dutch Merchants the Kingdome of *Venezuela*, being more large and long then *Spain*, giving to the Governour a full and plenary juriſdiction over the ſaid People upon certain conditions. They entered this Region with about 30. men, where they found the people affable and courteous as they were in other Countries of *India* before they were killed up by the *Spaniards*. They by many degrees crueller then the reſt of whom we have ſpoken ſhewed themſelves more fierce and greedy then Tygers, Wolves or Lyons; for having a juriſdiction over the Land, and therefore poſſeſſing it more freely, they beſtirred themſelves with greater fury and covetouſneſſe in the heaping up of Gold and Silver, then any of their Predeceſſors had done before them; laying aſide all feare of God, or of the King, and forgetting all humanity.

Theſe incarnate devils laid waſte and

spoiled above 400. miles of most fertile land, containing very great Provinces, fruitful Vallies forty miles in length; and an infinite number of Villages abounding with Gold and Silver. So many, and so many several regions they so utterly depopulated, that they hardly left a Messenger of these sad tydings, but those which hiding themselves in the Caverns and Bowels of the Earth escaped the thirst of their enraged swords. With new and unusual sorts of torments they destroyed above four or five millions of people: Neither do they yet put an end to their abominable crimes and enormities: Three or four of their mad actions I will rehearse, whereby the reader may judge of the rest.

The chiefe Lord of the Province they took captive, putting him to several torments to squeeze his Gold from him; but he escaping fled to the Mountaines, and thereupon his Subjects that lay hid among the Woods and Bushes began to raise a tumult: The *Spaniards* followed destroying abundance of the people; and as for those who were taken alive, they were publickly sold for slaves. In many Provinces, and indeed in most Provinces where they came before the captivity of the chief Lord, they were still welcom'd by the *Indians* with Songs and Dances and great Presents of Gold; though the thanks which they gave

gave them was alwayes with the points of their swords, still recompensing them with Massacres. One day when they came forth to meet the *Spaniards*, the *German* Tyrant and Captaine caus'd an infinite number of them to be shut up in a house made up with straw, where he commanded that they should be all cut in pieces. Now by reason that there were beames in the house whither the *Indians* got up to avoid the fury of the *German* swords; therefore (O cruel beasts) the Governour sent certaine men to set fire upon the house, and so burnt them alive: So that now the whole Region lay waste and desolate, the inhabitants being all fled to the Mountaines for safety.

They came afterwards to another large Province neere to that of St. *Martha*, where they found the *Indians* in their houses and Cities very peaceably employed about their occasions, where they liv'd a good while at the charges of the inhabitants, the *Indians* serving them like men in whose power their lives and safeties were, enduring beyond imagination their continual importunities and daily oppressions, which were almost intolerable. This being added, which I said before, that one *Spainard* consumes in one day as much as would suffice to serve an *Indian* family consisting commonly of ten persons for a whole month. At that time the *Indians* presented them with several

H 2 great

great summes of Gold, doing many other kindnesses for them. At length when they were about to go away, as a recompence for all their courteous entertainment, they resolv'd to leave them after this manner. The *German* Tyrant gave command that all the *Indians* with their wives and children if possible, should be gathered together and shut up in one large place; which done, they were also commanded to signifie to them, that whoever desired to be at liberty, must redeeme themselves with their wives and children at a certain Ransome, impos'd upon them at the discretion of the Governour; & to hasten them the more and bring them to a greater necessity, he commanded that no sustenance should be given them, till they had pay'd the sum required. Hereupon many sent home for the price of their Redemption, that they might be at liberty to seek for Victuals: But they had not been long at home ere they were brought back again by the Robbers, and shut up in the same place, that being oppressed with hunger and thirst they might be forc'd to redeem themselves once more; and thus were many of them three or four times faine to ransom themselves. And in this manner a Country abounding with Gold and people was totally destroy'd; in which there was a Valley forty miles long, where they burnt a Village that contained above a thousand

thouſand houſes. This Governour went further, having a great deſire to ſee the lower parts of *Perue*; for which journey he provided an infinite number of *Indians*, lading them with chaines and heavy burthens; and if any of them fainted by the way, becauſe they would not ſtand to looſen the chaines, they cut off their hands and heads, caſting the head one way, and the body another, and their burdens were divided and impos'd upon others. And now ſhould I reckon the Provinces which he laid deſert, the Cities which he burnt, for all their houſes are of ſtraw, beſides the particular ſlaughters which they made, though I am confident of the truth thereof, yet ſhould I ſcarcely be beleeved, by reaſon that ſo much cruelty could not be ſuppos'd in man.

This courſe took other Tyrants that departed from *Venequela* and the Province of St. *Martha*, with a reſolution to make a further diſcovery of the Divine Gold of *Perue*: But they found that glorious Country ſo deſert, ſo depopulated, ſo waſted and deſtroyed, that they themſelves though a crew of blood thirſty Tyrants, were amaz'd and wondred to behold ſuch ruines and depopulations.

Theſe and many other things were prov'd before the fiſcal of the *Indian* Council, and the ſeveral proofes are kept by the ſaid Council; though tis moſt certain that they

never put to death any of those cursed Tyrants, as if all the devastations and murders by them committed had not been at all to be regarded. For hitherto the Ministers of Justice in *India* through their extraordinary and damned blindnesse, have never been very solicitous to inquire after the crimes and slaughters which those Tyrants have committed, or daily do commit. Onely they tell you slightly, that because such and such a one did ill and handled the *Indians* so cruelly, that therefore the Treasury of the King was much diminished; and this is all they do toward the suppression of so many hainous actions. Neither are those, which are prov'd, verifi'd to any purpose, neither is there that credit given to them as indeed there should be; for if they would but do their duty both to God and the King, they would soon finde the King to have been cheated by the *German* Tyrants of above three millions of Gold; for the Region of *Venecuela* being about 400. miles in length, for the happinesse of the soile and the abundance of Gold is not inferiour to any of the rest: and thus in the space of seventeen years wherein these enemies of God and the King, have done nothing else but destroy'd and wasted these Countries, they have, as I said before, defrauded the King not of lesse then three millions of Gold. Neither is it to be hop'd that these losses

losses can be repaired as long as the World stands, unless God by some miracle should raise from the dead so many people as have been slaine; besides the blasphemies and curses wherewith they have been bold to provoke even God himselfe. But what recompence can be made for the destroying of so many soules, which through the cruelty and tyranny of so many blood-sucking Tyrants are now tormented in hell? This also may be added by way of conclusion to the rest of their Crimes, that from the time that they first entred this Region, which is now seventeen years agoe, they never ceas'd to send whole Ships laden with *Indian* Captives to the Islands of St. *Martha*, *Hispaniola*, *Jamaica*, and St. *John*, having sold at the least a million of men; neither do they yet forebeare in this yeare 1542. that abominable practice; the Royal Council of the King taking no notice thereof: and that, which they cannot choose but see, they not onely dissemble, but suffer and uphold them that do it. And as for the rest of their Crimes and infinite devastations, which they spread all along this part of the *Continent*, for a matter of 400. miles in length, together with *Venecuela* which is under their jurisdiction, they shut their eyes, when they might have remedi'd them. The reason why they did captivate the *Indians* was onely this; out of a perverse, obstinate

and blinde desire of heaping up Gold and riches, which is common to all that have gone into *America*. For these quiet lambes, they drew them by violence out of their houses, carrying them, together with their wives and children into Captivity, afflicting them in those horrid manners as abovesaid, and burning them with the marke of Slaves.

Of the Provinces of the Country of Florida.

INto these Countries there went two several Tyrants at several times, from the year 1510. or eleven, that they might perpetrate the same abominable actions as the rest had done; that by the blood and destruction of the people, they might obtaine Offices and dignities which they were no way worthy of. But at length they were taken away by an evil death, the houses also which they had built them (this I witnesse of all the three) at the cost of humane blood perish'd with them, the memory of them vanishing from the face of the Earth, as if they had never been. They left these Countries very much troubled and confused, having incurr'd no small infamy by reason of the

Crimes

Crimes which they committed, though they were not many: for God cut them off at the beginning, leaving the revenge of those evils, which I know, and have seen done in the *Indies*, to be poured forth upon this place. Of the fourth Tyrant that came well instructed lately in the yeare 1538. we have had no news these three yeares. This we are sure of, that at the beginning he carried himselfe very cruelly; and if he be alive, most assuredly he hath destroy'd an infinite number of people; for he among all those who have done most mischeife in ruining both Provinces and Kingdoms, is famous for his Savage fury; wherefore I am apt to believe that God hath put the same end to his life, as to the others.

Three or four years after these things happened which I have related, the other Tyrant that went along with him who there ended his dayes, departed out of that Country; whose cruelties and rapines while the chiefe Captaine liv'd, and after his death were so many, as we since understood, that what we said before, may still stand for an Axiom, that the further they went, the more exorbitant was their fury and iniquity. But because it is so irksome to me to rehearse these Execrable and bloody acts not of men but of beasts, I will no longer dwell upon them, but go to those things which followed after.

They

They found a numerous people, wite and well moralliz'd, over whom they exercis'd their wonted tyrannies, ſeeking to ſtrike an awe and dread into them, with the anguiſh and the burdens wherewith they oppreſſed them. And if they fainted by the way, they would not take the pains to open the fetters, but came to the fainting perſon, and cut off his head or his hands, and ſo left them. Once entring into a certaine Village, they were with great joy and exultation received by the *Spaniards*, who gave them proviſion till they were ſatisfied, allowing them alſo ſix hundred *Indians* to carry their burdens, and to look to their horſes. But the *Spaniards* being departed, a certain Captain, of Kin to the chiefe Tyrant, returned to ſpoile them that miſtruſted nothing; who there ſlew the King of the Province with his Lance, and committed many other cruelties. In another Village, whoſe Inhabitants feem'd to be more vigilant, by reaſon of the horrid iniquities which, as they heard, the *Spaniards* were wont to commit, they put all to the ſword, young and old, little and great, Lord and ſubject, ſparing none that came in their way.

The chief Tyrant, with a noſe and lips down to his beard, having call'd together a great number of *Indians*, reported to have

have been about two hundred, cauſed them all to have their members lopt off, leaving them in this ſad and painful condition, the blood ſtreaming forth, to be witneſſ s of the mercy of theſe perſons baptiz'd in the Catholike Faith.

Now let us judge of the love which ſuch kinde of men beare toward Chriſtianity, or after what manner they beleeve in God, whom they boaſt to be good and juſt, and whoſe Law is without blemiſh. Moſt pernicious have been the evils committed by theſe wicked men, the ſons of perdition. At length this wretched Captaine dyed without any repentance neither can we doubt but that he now lies fetter'd in the ſhades of Hell, unleſſe God of his infinite mercy and goodneſſe, not according to his deſerts, have taken compaſſion on him.

Of the River of Plate, or the Silver River.

ABout the yeares one thouſand five hundred and two or three, ſome four or five Captaines undertook a journey to the *River of Plate*, which containes many Provinces and Countries, which flouriſh with

with people very rational, and of handsome dispositions. In general we can say that they did there commit many horrid mischiefes and execrable murders. But being at a very great distance from those *Indians*, of whom we have talked more at large, we can relate nothing singular or particular; onely we doe not question, but they do employ themselves in the same works of darkneſſe as hath been hitherto practised in divers other places; for they are *Spaniards* still, and many of them the very same who were present at the other Massacres, and having the same intention to become rich and potent, which they cannot obtaine but by the same courses as they formerly took, following the bloody footsteps of those who have already destroyed and slain so many *Indians*.

After I had written what I have above mentioned, it hath been related to me for certaine, that they have depopulated and laid waste many Provinces and Kingdoms in those Regions, rendring themselves so much the more exquisite and devilish in their oppressions, slaughters, and massacres of those people, by how much they are at a farther and more convenient distance from *Spaine*; and laying aside all thoughts of Justice, which indeed was never practis'd in those Regions of *America*, as doth sufficiently appeare by what

what we have above written. Among all the Enormities which ſhall follow after, this one was read in the Councel. A certain Gouernour had given in charge to his ſouldiers, that into whatever Village they came that ſhould deny them proviſion, that they ſhould there put all the Inhabitants to the ſword. Upon which Warrant the ſouldiers went, and becauſe the *Indians* would not ſubmit to them as to enemies, fearing rather to come into their ſight, then that their Liberality or Store would be defective, they immediatly put to the ſword above 5000. of them. A certain number of men alſo living in peace, offer'd their ſervice to them; they afterwards were by chance ſummon'd by the Governour, and becauſe they came not ſo ſuddenly as his fury expected, he thereupon commanded that they ſhould be delivered to thoſe *Indians* that were their enemies. With tears and outcries they beſeeched him that he would rather permit them to die by their hands, then deliver them up to the mercy of their foes; and when they would not come out of the houſes where they were, they were all torne lim-meale, crying out, and ſaying, *We come in peace to ſerve you, and you now kill us, may our blood ſprinkled upon theſe walls be a teſtimony of our unjuſt death, and of your cruelty.* Certainly this was a deed not only

only to be bemoaned, but also to be bewaild and pity'd.

Of the great Kingdomes, and large Provinces of Peru.

IN the yeare 1531. a great *Hellue* and devourer of men went into the Kingdoms of *Peru*, upon the same pretences, and with the same intention as the rest; and being one of those who had been present at the murders and slaughters committed in other places, in the year 1510. therefore he proceeded with a greater hardnesse of heart in his outrages and robberies; and being a man of no faith or truth, he laid waste Cities and Villages, slaying all the Inhabitants; and was the cause of all those mischiefes that followed afterward in those Kingdomes; to undertake the Narration of which, and to represent them all to the Reader, is a thing impossible, until they shall perfectly and clearly appear at the day of judgement before all men. And for my selfe, I doe confesse, should I goe about to describe the deformity, the quality and circumstances of their actions, it would be a task too difficult for me.

At

At his first enterance he wasted certain Villages, and plundred the Country of a great quantity of Gold: And one time coming into an Island adjoyning to these Regions, which was known by the name of *Pagua*, being a fertile Island and full of people: he was receiv'd by the Prince and the inhabitants thereof as if he had been an Angel sent from heaven. But after that six months were past, in which time the *Spaniards* had consum'd all their provision, they then brought forth the corn which they had reserv'd against times of barrenness for themselves their wives and children, in places under the ground, offering it to them with tears in their eyes, desiring them to do what pleas'd them with it. But they ill rewarded them in the end, killing a very great number of them with their swords and lances, and those whom they took alive they carri'd away into Captivity, emptying and destroying the Country, with many other cruelties.

From thence they went to the Island of *Tumbala*, which is situated in the *Continent*, where he kill'd all that fell into his power; and because the people being astonished at their barbarism fled away from them, they accus'd them of Rebellion against the King of *Spain*. This Tyrant us'd also this kind of subtilty toward the *Indians*. He commanded those whom he took, and others which

brought

brought him presents, still to bring him more, till he saw that they were quite destitute; telling them that he recev'd them now as Vassals and Subjects of the king of *Spain*; flattering them also and telling them that he would neither take them, nor do them any other injury. As though it had been a thing lawful for him to rob & spoile them, and to terrifie them with such kinde of strange news before he had receiv'd them into the protection of the King of *Spain*; or as if after he had so receiv'd them to protection, he had never done any injury or laid any oppression upon them. After this the King and Supreame Emperour of all these Regions, *Acaliba* by name, brought against the *Spainards* a great power of pittiful naked Creatures, and arm'd with most ridiculous weapons, not knowing the sharpnesse of the *Spanish* Swords and Lances, nor the strength of their Horses; to the place where they lay approach'd the *Spaniards*, who certainly would rob the devils of Gold if they had it; This King resolv'd to call the *Spaniards* to an account, for the slaughters of his people, the destruction of his Country, & the robberies which they committed upon his Treasures. But the *Spaniards* met him, kill'd an infinite number of his people, and seiz'd upon his person, which was carried in a kind of Litter. Now they come to *Capitulations* about his redemption; He promi-

ses

ses ten millions of Crowns, and numbers down fifteen; they promis'd to release him, but never stood to their words, falsifying all the protestations which they made to the King: telling him how that his Subjects were gathered together again by his command. To whom the King made answer, that there could not be a leafe of a tree moved without his will and authority; but if they were now assembled any where together, it was not by his power; who was now their captive, for they might take away his life if they pleas'd. Notwithstanding all which they consulted whether they should burn him alive or no, which sentence they afterwards passed; but by the intreaty of some, that sentence was mitigated and he was commanded to be strangled. The King understanding that he was to dye, spake to them in these words; Why do you kill me? Did you not promise to set me at liberty, so I would give you Gold? I gave it you, and more then you requir'd; yet if it be your will that I must dye, send to your King of *Spain*: But ere he could utter more, the flames prevented him. Consider here the equity of this war, the Captivity of this Prince, the sentence of his condemnation, and the execution of that sentence, the conscience of the *Spaniards*, which nothing deterr'd them from consuming and taking away by violence the great Trea-

ſures of this great King and of his Nobles, how they all concur to aggravate their devilliſh iniquity. Concerning the foule and enormous cruelties wherewith they wholly extirpated the people of theſe Regions, I will here relate a few, ſeen by a Friar of the Order of St. *Francis*, and confirm'd and committed to writing under his own hand and ſeale, and diſperc'd not onely in theſe Provinces, but in the Kingdome of *Caſtile*. A copy of which I can produce ſigned with his own hand, wherein theſe things following are contain'd.

I Brother *Mark* of *Cilicia*, of the Order of St. *Francis*, cheif Governour of all the Brotherhood of that Order, in the Provinces of *Peru*, being one of the firſt religious perſons that went into thoſe parts, ſpeak this for a certain truth, teſtifying thoſe things which I have ſeen, and which properly concern the inhabitants of theſe Countries. Firſt I am an eye-witneſſe, and do affirme upon my knowledge that the inhabitants of *Perue* were a Nation very courteous, affable, and loving to the *Spaniards*; and I have ſeen Preſents of Gold, Silver, and precious Stones, given by thoſe people to the *Spaniards* in great abundance, beſides many other offices of ſervice which they daily did for them. Neither did the *Indians* ever move war till they were forc'd to it by the contumelies and injuries of the *Spaniards*:

But

But on the contrary, the *Spaniards* being received by them with all the shews of respect and freindship, were continually furnish't both with men and women for their service.

I am also a witnesse, that upon no occasion given them by the *Indians* the *Spaniards* did enter their Country, and burnt to death their great Emperour call'd *Ataliba*, after they had receiv'd from him as a ransome from his captivity above two millions of Gold; His whole Kingdome having submitted themselves to him without any resistance: With the same cruelty was *Cochilimacha* his Captain General put to death, who came with other Noble men of the Country to the *Spaniards* in peace. The same Fate also follow'd another potent Lord of the Province of *Quitonia*, whom they also burnt without any occasion given, or injury done them: As unjustly did they burne also *Schapera*, Prince of the *Canaries*: They also burnt the feet of *Aloides* the most potent Lord in all the Provinces of *Quitonia*, afflicting him with many other torments to make him confesse where the Gold of *Ataliba* lay, though as afterwards it appear'd, he knew nothing of it. They also kill'd *Quitonius Cocopagauga*, Governour of all the Provinces of *Quitonia*, who at the importunities of *Sebastian Barnaclacanus* Captain to the Go-

vernour came in peace to the *Spaniards*, because he could not give them the sum which they demanded; thus they put to death divers other of the Noblemen of the Country; and as I understand, it is the intention of the *Spaniards* not to leave one of the Lords and Noblemen of that place alive.

I do also affirme that I have seen the *Spaniards* for no other cause, but to satisfie their own wills, dismember the *Indians* both men and women, cutting off their eares, noses, and hands, and that in so many places and regions, that it would be a tedious thing to relate them. I have also seen the *Spaniards* set their dogs upon the *Indians* to devour them; and such a number of houses and villages burnt by them, that it would be over long to rehearse them: This is also a truth, that they would snatch young Infants out of their mothers bellies, and cast them as far as they could throw them; besides many other cruelties which they committed, which did not a little amaze me, though they are too many to be numbred.

I do also affirme that the *Spaniards* got together as many of the *Indians* as possibly they could croud into three houses, and there, upon no occasion given, burnt them to death. At that time it chanc'd that a certain Presbyter, by name *Ocæna* snatch'd an Infant out of the fire, which one of the

Spaniards

Spaniards beholding, immediately took the child out of his hands, and threw it into the fire; which *Spaniard*, the ſame day that he did this vile act, as he returned to his Quarters, fell down dead by the way, whom I perſwaded the reſt to leave unburied.

I have alſo ſeen them ſend to the Noblemen and chief Rulers of the *Indians* to come to them, engaging to ſecure them, and to let them return in peace; but when they came, they cauſed them to be immediately burnt. Two they burnt while I was preſent, one being the Lord of *Andonia*, the other of *Tumbala*; neither could I by any perſwaſions prevail with them to take them out of the fire; and this I ſpeak in the preſence of God, and according to my own conſcience, that I never knew of any commotion or rebellion raiſed by the *Indians* of *Peru* againſt them, though it was apparent to all how they did torment and maſſacre them. Which had they done, conſidering how the *Spaniards* broke their faith and promiſes to them, how againſt all Law and Right they practis'd nothing elſe but their deſolation and deſtruction, certainly they had done well, chuſing rather noble a death, then to endure ſuch tedious miſeries.

I doe alſo affirme out of the mouths of the *Indians* themſelves, that greater quantities of Gold lie hid then are yet diſcovered,

vered, which because of the cruelties and injustice of the *Spaniards*, they are loath to reveale, nor will reveale, till the tyrannical hand of the *Spaniards* shall be taken off them, rather chusing to dye, as others have done. Whereby God is offended, and the Affaires of the King many times impeded: For he hath been defrauded of more then would serve to maintain *Castile*, the recovery of which cannot be performed without much difficulty and large expences.

And thus far I have related the very words of this religious person, confirm'd by the Bishop of *Mexico*, before whom he justified all that is here written.

Here we must consider these things to be such as this Religious person was an eye-witnesse of, having traveld long in those parts for the space of above nine or ten yeares, and had compassed above fifty or a hundred miles of that Country, when there were but few *Spaniards* that liv'd in those parts: though afterwards to the noise of the Gold there flockt thither above five thousand, who scattered themselves through those large Provinces, that contain'd in length above five or 600. miles, which they totally laid waste, committing rather more and greater cruelties then they had done in any other Countries; and to say truth, from that time until this present year, they de-

deſtroy'd a thouſand times more perſons then he makes mention of, and with leſſe feare, either of God, or of the King, and with leſſe pity they maſſacred the greateſt part of mankind of thoſe that inhabited thoſe Regions, killing above four millions of people.

A few dayes after, with darts made of reeds, they ſhot at the moſt potent Queen, who was the Wife of *Elinguus*, in whoſe hands the whole Adminiſtration of the Government of theſe Kingdomes remain'd, which occaſioned him to rebel againſt them, and to this day he holds out againſt them: At length they took his Queen, and contrary to all right and equity, they put her to death, though it was reported that ſhe was great with child, for no other cauſe but that they might afflict her husband. But if I ſhould goe to particularize the murders and ſlaughters committed in that Region, the Reader would finde them ſo horrid and ſo numerous, that in both reſpects they would far exceed what hath been ſaid touching the other parts of *India*.

Of

Of the New Kingdome of GRANATA.

IN the yeare 1539. many of these Tyrants departing from *Venecuela*, *Santa Martha* and *Carthagena*, met together to make a Conquest of *Peru*. And many others comming out of the same Regions, having a desire to make a further Progress, they found many pleasant Countries, about some 300. miles from *Carthagena*, & divers gallant Provinces, well stored with courteous and affable Inhabitants like to other places in *India*, abounding also in Gold and Precious Stones, which are called *Emraulds*; which Provinces by a new name they called *New Granata*, because that the Tyrant that first came into these parts was borne in the Kingdome of *Granata*. And because those that robb'd and spoil'd these Countries, were cruel men, and perverse Stewards, famous butchers and spillers of humane blood, therefore are their diabolical actions so great and so many, that they farre surpassed those which were done before them in other Countries, of which, some of the most select ones I will rehearse.

A

A certain Governour, because he that destroy'd those parts would not admit him to share with him in his gettings, made certain Inquisitions and proofes, which he got prov'd by many witnesses, by which are apparent the murders and homicides which the other committed; in the committing whereof he perseveres unto this day: There were read in the Councel, and stand these recorded.

In the said Examinations the witnesses depose, that when all these Kingdomes were peaceful, the *Indians* serv'd the *Spaniards*, getting their living by painful labours in the tillage of the Earth, bringing them what quantity of Gold or Gems they had or could get, having also divided their houses and their habitations among them, of which they are not a little covetous, as being a means for them to obtain their Gold the more easily.

But when all the *Indians* were labouring under their accustomed tyranny, the Chief Captain and Tyrant of the *Spaniards* took the King and Lord of the Country, and kept him a prisoner for the space of six or seven moneths, for no other reason then to squeez from him what Gold and precious Stones he could. The said King, whose name was *Bogata*, through fear promised him that he would give him a golden house, hoping by that meanes to be set at liberty;

liberty; and ſo he ſent his *Indians*, who brought back great ſums of Gold and Precious Stones. But becauſe the King gave them not a golden houſe, therefore they told him that he muſt be put to death, becauſe he did not ſtand to his word. Whereupon the Tyrant commanded that he ſhould be brought before him; and thus they preſum'd to call to judgement one of the greateſt Kings of the Land. Whereupon ſentence was given that hee ſhould be tormented, becauſe he had not given the gold'n houſe. Whereupon they tortur'd him, dropping hot ſope upon his belly; then they fetterd his two feet to two poſts or ſtakes, and bound his neck to another; then two men holding his hands, they ſet fire to his feet, the Tyrant comming now and then to him, and threatning death to him, unleſſe that he would tell them where his treaſure lay; But that could not be done, for with torments they ſoon ended his life. Which things, while they were doing, the diſpleaſure of Heaven fell upon the City for their ſakes, whereby it was immediately conſum'd with fire. The other Captaines of the *Spaniards*, reſolving to walk in their Leaders footſteps, becauſe they knew no Art but that of diſmembring the poor people, were not leſs guilty of the ſame crimes, with divers and moſt horrible torments afflicting both the

Nobles

Nobles and the Commonaly which submitted themselves unto them, though they would faine have bought their peace with great presents both of Gold and Precious Stones. They tormented them onely that they might obtaine from them the greater Sums of Gold and Silver; and thus all the Noble Blood of that Country was spilt in a most barbarous and shameful manner.

One time it happend that a certain number of the *Indians*, full of innocence and simplicity, came to proffer their service to the Spanish Captain; But while they thought themselves safe under the protection of their own humility, a Captain at that instant came to the City where they serv'd their Masters, who, after he had sup'd, commanded all the *Indians*, who were sleeping and resting from the hardnesse of their labours, to be all put to the sword: Which slaughter he made with intention to make himselfe the more dreadful to all the Country. Once the Captain commanded all the *Spaniards* that they should bring forth as many of the *Indian* Lords or common people, as they had in their houses, into a publick place, and there kill them; and thus they slew above four or five hundred men. This the witnesses affirme of a certain particular Tyrant, that he exercis'd very great cruelties, by cutting

ting off the hands, noſes, and feet both of men and women.

Another time it happend that the chief Captain ſent an Officer into the Province of *Bogata*, to enquire who had ſucceeded the Prince that was ſo cruelly murdered; who riding many miles into the Country, took the *Indians* captive, cutting off the hands and ears of many of them, onely becauſe they would not tell who was their Kings Succeſſor; others they threw to their dogs to be torn to pieces; and thus they kill'd and deſtroy'd great numbers of the *Indians* in theſe parts.

Upon a certain day, about the fourth watch of the night, they fell upon many Princes, Peers, and other men who thought themſelves in ſafety; for the *Spaniards* had made promiſe to them that they ſhould not receive any injury; upon which promiſe they came out of their lurking holes in the mountaines, returning without any fear or ſuſpition to their houſes; all theſe this Tyrant took, and cauſing them to lay their hands upon the ground, with his own ſword cut them off, telling them that he would chaſtiſe them for not declaring where their King was.

Another time, becauſe the *Indians* did not bring a cheſt of Gold to the Captain which he required, he therefore ſent forces to make war upon them, in which war

war ſo many were ſlain, ſo many diſmembred, that the number was hardly to be reckond; beſides others that they caſt to their dogs, bred up and fed with humane fleſh, who were immediately devoured by them.

Another time the Inhabitants of another Province, ſeeing that they had murderd about four or five of their chief Princes and Rulers, fled in fear to a certain mountain for ſhelter againſt their inhumane enemies, where there were got together above foure or five thouſand *Indians*, as hath been proved by witneſſes: But the Captain, or Governour of the *Spaniards*, ſent a notorious Tyrant with a company of Souldiers to reduce, as he ſaid, thoſe rebellious *Indians*, that had fled from their ſlaughters and cruelties; and to chaſtiſe them for it, as if they had done an unlawful action; or as if puniſhment had been due to the *Indians*, and not rather more deſerved by themſelves, to have bin us'd without all pity, who had ſhewd themſelves ſo mercileſſe to others. The *Spaniards* ſcale this Mountain by force, for the *Indians* were weak and unarmed, telling them that they deſired peace if they would lay down their Armes; whereupon they all immediately threw away their weapons, which when the chief Tyrant beheld, he ſent to certain of the *Spaniards* to poſſeſſe them-

themſelves of the cheife places of ſtrength in the Mountaine ; and then commanded them to fall upon the *Indians*. Whereupon they fall upon them as Wolves or Lyons fall upon a flock of ſheep, till they were wearied with murdering ; but they had no ſooner taken breath, but he commanded them again to renew their fury, and caus'd them to precipitate the reſt which were remaining from the top of the Rock which was very high and ſteep. And the witneſſes affirm that they have ſeen a cloud of *Indians* falling down from the Mountain, which were all bruis'd to peices.

And to finiſh his cruel enterpriſe, he caus'd the *Indians* that had hid themſelves among the thickets to be ſearched out and put to the ſword, and then thrown down from the tops of the high mountaines. And not ſatiated with theſe cruelties, that their horrible abominations might be the more notorious, he gave command that all the *Indians* that were reſerv'd alive ſhould be kept by his particular ſouldiers as their ſlaves, a cuſtome which they conſtantly obſerved ; as for the women, thoſe excepted whom they thought moſt fit for their ſervice, they were all thruſt together into a houſe made of ſtraw and there burnt to death, to the number of above four or five hundred.

The ſame Tyrant came to the City of *Cota*

Cota where he took an infinite sight of people, and cast fifteen or sixteen of the Nobles and Lords of the Kingdom to his dogs, cutting of the hands of many of the *Indians* both men and women, which he hung upon a perch for the *Indians* to behold; in this manner were seen hung together above seventy paire of hands. This is also to be added that they cut off the noses both of Infants and their Mothers.

No man can rehearse the cruelties committed by this man, the enemy of God; They are innumerable, neither heard of nor seen before, especially those committed in *Guatimala*, which were their chiefe masterpeices in this art of destruction which they have been so long practising.

The witnesses do moreover adde this, that the cruelties and slaughters committed in the said new Kingdome of *Granata* by the said Captain and his accomplices the destroyers and Abaddons of mankinde, who are with him, and to whom he gives the power to exercise these strange abominations, are so many and so great, that if his Majesty do not stop the deluge of evils which they bring along with them (for the slaughters of the *Indians* are made onely through the desire of their Gold, though it be all in their own hands already) in a very short time the Kingdom will be ruin'd & laid desolate, and the land

when

when all the Inhabitants are destroy'd must of necessity lie untill'd.

In this place we must not passe by a most pernicious cruelty of these Tyrants which was so violent, that in the space of two or three years (for no longer time there was between the desolation and the discovery of this Kingdom which was the most populous Country in the whole World) they totally ruin'd and depopulated the whole Country, shewing themselves so void of compassion, so empty of grace, so regardlesse of the Kings honour, that they had not left a person living, had not his Majesty a little stopt the current of their cruelty: which I the more easily believe, because I have seen my selfe in a few dayes several great Kingdomes and Countries destroy'd and desolate. There are some large Provinces adjoyning to the Kingdom of new *Granata* which are call'd *Popagan* and *Cali*, and three or four others which stretch themselves in length above 500. miles, which they destroy'd in the same manner as they did the other, and by their foresaid Massacres brought down to the lowest degree of desolation, and this some who return'd out of these Countries & came to us relate; But if there were ever any thing to be bewailed by man, they were the stories which they told of large Cities ruin'd and buried in their own ashes; scarce fifty houses re-

remaining where before there were above a thousand, or two thousand; and the sad narrations which they brought, of large Countries and Regions that lay desolate and spoil'd of their inhabitants.

At length there went out of the Kingdomes of *Perne* through the Country of *Quitonia* into the Regions of *Granata* and *Popaganum*, many very cruel Tyrants, who march'd through the *Carthagenians*, and *Urabia*, to reach *Calisum*, while others stay'd to assaile *Quitonium* it selfe. But these at length joyn'd together, depopulating above sixe hundred miles in length, with an infinite waste of men, to the remainder whereof they are at present no lesse cruel.

And thus what I set down as a rule, still holds good, that the violence and cruelty of the *Spaniards*, by continuance still waxed more and more furious and bloody. But among all these Crimes, which are onely worthy of fire and sword, that have been perpetrated in these Countries, this which followes is worthy the taking notice of.

When the heate of Massacring and killing is over, they carry captive away sometimes two hundred, sometimes three hundred men apeice; and when their master pleases, he commands a hundred at a time to be brought before him, to whom when

they come like meek and patient lambs, he commands thirty or forty of them to be put to death; telling the reſt that thus they ſhall all be us'd unleſſe they prove diligent in his ſervice.

Conſider I beſeech you, all that read, or ſhall read theſe few papers, whether an act ſo horrible, ſo deteſtable, ſo inhumane, do not exceed all the iniquities and cruelties that the imagination of man can comprehend; and whether ſuch *Spaniards* may not be deſervedly called Devils; or whether it be not a thing almoſt indifferent whether the *Indians* ſhould be in the hands of *Spaniards*, or of the Infernal ſpirits. Neither will I forget to relate one barbarous action, which as I think doth exceed the cruelty of beaſts.

The *Spaniards* which are among the *Indians* do breed up a ſort of fierce dogs, which they teach and inſtruct to fall upon the *Indians* and devour them. Now let all men, judge whether Chriſtians or Turks, in this it much imports not, whether ſo much cruelty ever peirc'd their eares before. Theſe dogs they take along with them in all their expeditions, carrying alſo divers *Indians* in chaines for the ſuſtenance of thoſe dogs. And it was a common thing for them to ſay one to another; *Give me a quarter of your Indian for my dogs, and too morrow when I kill one I will pay it you again*; As if they were

were no more to be accounted of then the offals of a hog or sheep. Others were wont to go a hunting in the morning, and being ask'd how they had sped: Oh very well reply'd the other, my dogs have kill'd fifteen or sixteen *Indians* this morning; These have been all proved in the impeachments made by one Tyrant against another. Could there be any thing more horrible or more cruel?

But I will here stay, until there shall come news of greater impieties (if greater there can be) or till we shall return to behold these things which for the space of above forty years we have already seen. And now I do protest according to my conscience and in the sight of God, that the losses of the *Indians* were so great, and so many their subverted Cities, the cruelties and massacres so horrible, the violences and iniquities so inhuman, that though I have done my utmost to relate what I could, and to paint them in their own lively colours, yet have I not been able to rehearse one thing done among a thousand, either as to the quantity or the quality of the Crimes.

And now that all true Christians may be mov'd with the greater compassion towards the poor creatures, that their losses may appeare the more deplorable, that they may with a greater indignation detest the ambition, cruelty, and covetousness,

of the *Spaniards*, to thoſe which I have aboveſaid, I will alſo adde this for a truth, that, from the time *America* was firſt diſcovered unto this preſent, the *Indians* never were the men that ever ſhewed the leaſt diſaffection, or offer'd the leaſt injury to the *Spaniards*, but rather ador'd them as Angels of immortallity come to viſit them from Heaven, till their owne actions betrayd them to a far worſe cenſure.

This I will alſo adde, that from the beginning to this day, the *Spaniards* were never any more mindful to ſpread the Goſpel among them, then as if they had been dogs; but on the contrary forbid religious perſons to exercile their dutie, deterring them by many afflictions and perſecutions from preaching and teaching among them, for that they thought would have hindered them in getting their Gold, and kept the people from their labours. Neither had they any more knowledge of the God of Heaven, as to ſay whether he were of wood, braſſe, or iron, then they had above a hundred years before. *New Spaine* being onely excepted, whither the Religious perſons had moſt liberty to go: So that they all dy'd without Faith or Sacraments, to the willing deſtruction of their ſouls.

I Frier *Bartholmew Caſaus*, of the Or-

der

der of St. *Dominic*, who went to theſe parts through the mercy of God, deſiring the ſalvation of the *Indians*, that ſo many precious ſoules redeemd with the blood of Chriſt might not periſh, but wiſhing with my whole heart, that they might through the knowledge of their Creator live eternally: Becauſe of the care alſo and compaſſion which I beare to my Country, which is *Caſtile*, fearing leſt God ſhould deſtroy it in his anger for the ſins which it hath committed againſt his divine Majeſty, the faith and the honour of divers great perſons in the Court of *Spaine*, zealouſly religious, and who abominate theſe bloody and deteſtable actions, after many hinderances of buſineſſe, did at length put an end to this brief Tractate at *Valentia* the eighth day of *December* 1542. when the *Spaniards* (though they were in ſome places more cruel, in ſome places leſſe, after the end of all their torments, violences, tyrannies, deſolations and oppreſſions, were at length come to *Mexico*, which enjoyes a gentler uſage then other parts; for there is an outſide of Juſtice, which doth ſomething reſtrain their cruelty, though not at all the immoderate tributes which they lay upon them. And now I have a real hope, that *Charles* the Fifth our Soveraign Lord and Prince, Emperor & King of *Spaine*, (to whoſe eares the wickedneſ-

ſes

ſes and impieties of theſe tyrants do daily come, which are committed againſt the will of God in theſe Countries, for they have hitherto conceal'd theſe things from him) not leſſe ſubtilly then maliciouſly, will extirpate the cauſes of ſo many evils, and apply fitting remedies to the calamities of this New World delivered by God to him as to a Lover of Juſtice and Mercy. Which God we doe beſeech to grant him happineſſe in his life and in his Imperial dignity, and to bleſs his Royal ſoule with eternal happineſs. *Amen.*

FINIS.

The Hiſtorical Relation of the Spaniſh Maſſacres in the *Weſt Indies*.

This edition contains the entire text of the Phillips translation of the Brevíssima Historia. *The absence of page numbers 89 through 96 is due to an error in the pagination of the original.*

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